

**FROM VISION 2030 TO PLANNING
AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR NORTH
EASTERN STATES**

19-20 DECEMBER - 2016, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

**WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY NITI AAYOG AND UNITED
NATIONS INDIA**

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INTRODUCTION

The government of India is committed to achieving the sustainable development goals and to leave no one behind. NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the role to coordinate, roll out and implement the Agenda2030 for sustainable development goals.

NITI Aayog has advised all the States to initiate preparation of their Vision documents and align their schemes to SDGs.

State governments are preparing vision documents with specific targets to be met in the next 15 years. States in the North East have taken an early lead in preparation of their Vision documents. The government of Assam was the first to finalize their vision document.

Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and other states in the North East are also actively participating in the articulation of the States' visions. Translating the vision into document will require focussed planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and feeding into the planning document.

The consultation of all the North East States in Shillong was convened to discuss the process of achieving this mission.

AGENDA

DAY 1 : 19th December, Monday	
Time	Inaugural Session
14:00 hrs	Welcome and Background Remarks by NITI Aayog – Mr. V S Gaur, Joint Secretary, NITI Aayog
14:15 hrs	Setting the Agenda for the Workshop - Speech by Mr. Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, UNDP
14.30 hrs	Inaugural & Opening Remarks by Mr. K S Kropha, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya
14:50 hrs	Vote of Thanks – Ms. Vandana Marwah, Director, NITI Aayog

14:55 hrs	Tea Break
15:00 hrs	<p>Technical Session 1: Panel Discussion: Integrating Vision 2030 Agenda into Planning and Implementation</p> <p>Chair: Mr. K S Kropha, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya Context Presentation: Mr. Anurag Goel, (Retd IAS), Advisor to UNDP Lead Presentation: Mr. Vikram Singh Gaur, Joint Secretary, NITI Aayog State Presentation: Mr. K V Eapen, Additional Secretary, Assam</p>
16:30 hrs	Presentation on Village Profile & Talukka Planning by Mr. Sharif K Hudda, Director, Economics & Statistics, Government of Gujarat
17:30 hrs	Closing with High Tea
DAY 2: 20th December, Tuesday	
9:30 hrs	<p>Technical Session 2: Strengthening Implementation and Service Delivery</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Omkar Singh, PCCF and Principal Secretary, Environment and Forest</p> <p>Theme 1: Reaching the Furthest Behind First through strengthened local governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. N Rajeev, Ex Sarpanch, Eraviperroor Grama Panchayat Success Story of Local Self Governance • Mr. Shyam Sunder Paliwal, Sarpanch, Piplantri Gram Panchayat, Rajasmand <p>Theme 2: Investing in Systems strengthening for improved service delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun ePDS: ICTs and process re-engineering for an efficient Public Distribution System <i>presentation by Mr Amit Premi, ICT Consultant.</i> • Achieving total financial inclusion in West Tripura through e-ROR and Common Services Centres (Tripura) presentation by Mr Anindya Kumar Bhattacharjee • Presentation by Mr Zerzoenga, Joint Director (UD&PA) (State of Mizoram)
11:00 hrs	Tea Break
11:30 hrs	<p>Technical Session 2 contd: Strengthening Implementation and Service Delivery</p> <p>Chair: Mr. R.B. Thong, Development Commissioner Nagaland</p> <p>Theme 3: Innovative implementation of Central/State sponsored schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRHM Initiatives: Improving access to healthcare through strategic incentives (Assam) <i>presentation by Mr Samir Kumar Sinha, Commissioner and Secretary, Health</i> • Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme: Fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship <i>presentation by Vijay Mantri, Executive Director Meghalaya Basin Development</i> • Dhara Vikas: Creating water security through spring-shed development (Sikkim) <i>presentation by Ms. Devika Sharma, Director (Planning), HRDD</i> • Good Practices of Government and Community Partnership (Nagaland) <i>presentation by Mr Chinmak, Entrepreneur.</i>
13:00 hrs	Lunch
13:40 hrs	<p>Technical Session 3: Monitoring the Progress towards the SDGs</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Anurag Goel, (Retd IAS), Advisor to UNDP</p>

	<p>Lead Presentation: Mr. James Mathew, Director , Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Melvil Pereira, Director, North-Eastern Social Research Centre and Ms. Enakshi Ganguly, Co-founder HAQ: Centre for Child Rights • Mr. Ashutosh Salil, District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra • Mr. Vinesh Singhvi, Officer on Special Duty, Plan, Government of Rajasthan • Mr. Joydeep Baruah, Associate Professor, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development
15:00 hrs	<p>Technical Session 4: Voices of the Youth: Shaping the Future</p> <p>Chair: Mr Ashutosh Salil, District Collector, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Maharashtra</p> <p>Lead Presentation: Ms. Kanika Sinha, Lead Associate - Commutiny: The Youth Collective and Pravah</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lezo Pusture, Director, Youth Net • Mr. Sonal Roshan, Operations Manager, WAY FOUNDATION • Mr. Jenpu Rongmei, Chief Functionary, CAN Youth • Mr. Deepjyoti Sonu Brahma, Director, Farm2Food
16:00 hrs	Tea Break
16:30 hrs	<p>Concluding Session: High Level Panel on achieving the SDGs in the North East</p> <p>Discussion moderated by: Mr. C K Das, Member, North East Council</p>
17:30 hrs	Vote of Thanks

DAY 1

Welcome and Background Remarks by NITI Aayog – Mr. V S Gaur, Joint Secretary, NITI Aayog

The North East is seen as an integral part of India, a paradise on earth as well as the best destination for nature lovers, trekkers and wildlife enthusiasts; and is a corridor of different Nature, culture, ethnicities – heterogeneity

The emerging challenge is to invent new ways of ensuring the participation of states and UTs in the formulation of national policies and motivating them for effective implementation in key development areas.

Departure from the past- PM Modi has stressed on the need to leverage cooperative and competitive federalism to achieve all round growth and move away from “one size fit all” approach towards respecting the heterogeneity of different states and addressing their local requirements.

The basic idea behind the turn of cooperative federalism is sharing of powers and responsibilities between the three levels of government which involves **participative policy making**. This further involves empowering the interested council created under Article 263 and mandated to deal with coordination between states and initializing the structural changes in the same light

NITI Aayog has been formed to further empower and strengthen the states and it is gradually but surely replacing a Union to State one way flow of policy by genuine and continuing partnership with the states.

With the implementation of the recommendations of the 14th FC, states are now entitled to 10 per cent increase in the overall devolution of funds- an enhanced fiscal autonomy. This marks the beginning of the structural change in the distribution of resources and responsibilities between centre and states.

States are now entrusted with the responsibility in designing and implementing development schemes as per their priorities and needs.

To be socially and economically sustainable, India’s growth has to be inclusive. However the country’s North East has been experiencing, a comparatively slower pace of industrialisation and socio-economic growth. Though, the region is blessed with abundant natural resources for industrial and social development, they haven’t been utilized to their full potential.

The region has certain distinct disadvantages, it is topographically located with access to the traditional domestic market of eastern India along with proximity to the major states in the East and adjacent countries such as Bangladesh and Myanmar. The region is also a vantage entry point to south eastern Asian markets.

The resource rich North East with its expanses of fertile farmland and huge talent pool could turn into one of India’s most prosperous regions.

Team-India would be led by states and guided by the centre. It will endeavour to ensure for every Indian household; adequate access to housing, means of livelihood, electricity, health education and social security. The vision of Team-India aims at bringing together all states for achieving the goals of elimination of poverty and targeting all schemes for the benefit of the needy.

As highlighted by the PM, in the recent preliminary session of the North Eastern Council, many reforms are underway in the area such as investment in agriculture, hydel-power, infrastructure, information & communication technology, tourism as well as in creating new avenues of growth through the development of vertically integrated food processing chains, marketing the skill development and cross-border trade.

The vision of NITI Aayog is to provide a framework for national agenda for the PM and the CMs to provide impetus to foster collaborative federalism through structured support initiative and mechanism with the states on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong states make a strong Nation.

This region has multiple avenues for growth and development. It is of permanent and paramount importance, that the region as a collective unity embarks on a vibrant journey to realize the dreams of a better future.

The Vision Plan for India, being a signatory to SDGs, is expected not only to achieve the SDGs but rather, to go beyond them. Further, how can the various centrally sponsored schemes and their convergence under the National Development Agenda provide us with a much wider opportunity to plan our schemes in a more effective manner so that we can move towards achieving the SDGs? With this objective, we have attempted to showcase some of the best practices of inclusion and effective implementation in this workshop. We expect that “*From Vision 2030 To Planning and Implementation for North Eastern States*” will turn out to be a simulative for the 15 year vision plan implementation in the North East in a proactive manner.

Setting the Agenda for the Workshop - Speech by Mr. Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, UNDP

How to look at the integration of the Vision 2030 plan that the government has committed to, but also to put it in a framework of what does it mean to look through the lens of the Sustainable development goals.

The SDGs and what it represents are based on **three principles, three dimensions** and **5 Ps**.

The SDGs is a global, universal framework that has been set out for how countries, communities, villages or even small families can achieve sustainability or sustainable development. It will only be achieved at the local level- only when those communities, those block levels or organizations, districts or states make a commitment to these, that it will become real for the life of people. The fact that they are global goals mean nothing if it is not implemented at the local level. This workshop marks an important towards both, connecting the national and local plans as well as for the implementation opportunities that the government provides and how to achieve the same at the local level.

The SDGs represent **three dimensions** - the economic, environment and social windows. These three elements over the last 50 years have been emphasised by various countries and even the global community at different stages. The 1960s and 70s saw a big emphasis on the social dimension. The 80s and 90s and especially 2000s saw a big push in terms of economic aspects that need to be done- saw how China drove their economy through an aggressive approach and also in the process lifted many people out of poverty. There is also a new dimension because we also have an environment to protect- this is appreciated even more in the North East.

How does one balance at any given point, these three dimensions? They need to be put in correlation with each other; if any of these are overemphasised then it starts to challenge sustainable development in the long run.

The **three Principles** that come out from the SDGs (from the policy framework) is that it, firstly creates an integrative approach to development.

If all the 17 goals are put together along with the 169 targets, one sees that the SDGs look at integration. It begins to break down the divisions that have been created, specifically departments at the state level and ministries at the national level. Development cannot be approached from a single perspective and only from one important department. If it is not

done in an integrated way and if it does not approach development from multiple perspectives, then one cannot achieve sustainable development. It is similar to how electricity is created- one can have a lot of good sparks- the education department might do something wonderful with primary education and the health department might do something wonderful with new born children or how to make maternal health very focussed in the health sector or PWD can connect roads. However if the connection between departments isn't thought out, one will always merely have sparks. It is only when the sparks connect with each other when one gets electricity and therefore real power for long term development. That is the challenge.

It is both a horizontal connection- integration between sections on how we look at development, it is also a vertical integration that looks at how the state governments connect to other parts of the various bureaucracies but also the institutions that support communities at the grass roots level. Unless it is integrated along with a support system, only pieces of good development will take place but not a holistic approach to get people out of poverty.

1. Leaving no one behind
2. Reaching the furthest first. Focus development at the poorest of the poor. There can be GDP growth which might never benefit anyone who doesn't belong to a certain group of people, this would not be sustainable development.
3. Universality- doesn't mean global. But how can we integrate local needs.

The big picture- SDG is like a simple map- you have to see 1) the whole picture of development and what you want to accomplish; 2) need to know where you are on the map. Going from point A to point B- that is what a vision does.

The 5 Ps:

1. Puts people first
2. Profit and Prosperity for nations
3. The Planet -we only have this planet, if it is ruined, nothing can be done- it will have an impact on the children- the planet and its care would also contribute to other development patterns
4. Peace- no development can be achieved without peace
5. Partnership- there has to be a connection between the business community, government, the financial sector, civil society and so on.

The objective of the workshop is to not only lead to a common understanding but inspired action. As Nelson Mandela used to say, you can solve a lot of problems with a little head and little heart. This should be the approach towards development to make it sustainable again.

Inaugural & Opening Remarks by Mr. K S Kropha, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya

The forest cover as per the FRI data has been increasing over the years in Meghalaya and there have been restrictions imposed on exploitation of forest resources. There is an opportunity cost to that, those resources and the land which is being used for those forests could be put to some other, more productive use. However that is not happening, neither is the state being compensated for sustaining those forests and raising it as a carbon sync for the country as a whole.

1. There is a need to look at natural resources which are in abundance but are not being utilized and whether the state shall be allowed to use it and if it is not, if it can be compensated for that. Whether there could be a mechanism which could provide alternative resources for the state and whether they can be used for raising the socio-economic levels of the people in Meghalaya.
2. North East Council (NEC) came out with a vision document- one of the findings was that the Assam- Meghalaya composite had a higher per capita income pre independence than the national average. North East did not have a handicap nor was it always lagging behind. But after independence, the North East did start lagging behind. While this has not been attribute to independence, a reason has been sought for why the economic development began to lag behind in the post-independence era. It was suggested that perhaps the solution could be found through understanding the reason why the pace of development and socio-economics growth slowed down at that historical stage.

The rest of the country is marching forward and the North East is lagging behind. The gap between the mainland and North East Region is only widening rather than getting reduced.

3. 14th financial commission- states are in a manner of speaking better off as devolution of resources has improved. However, the bigger states stand to gain more. In absolute terms, the increase in the devolution of resources is only marginal for the smaller states. In the bargain, the special allocations which were known as 'block grants' have been withdrawn. These block grants were given in the form of special plan assistance, additional central assistance and so on. Due to the 14th financial reward and higher devolution from central taxes, these special allocations for the 'Special Category States' has dried up and that will have its own adverse impact. States in the North East are placed at par with the more advanced states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and so on. Therefore, if they have to depend entirely on their own resources and on the devolution which has happened post 14th finance commission award, the gap between the mainland and this region will further grow. With the limited resources at their disposal, it was stated that they will never be able to catch up with the rest of the country.

The NEC Vision document had projected the kind of investments that would be required for the North East to catch up with the rest of the country in terms of socio-economic developments and all other indicators. However that document and its projections have not been supported by investments which should have come forth NEC or through the central government assistance or support. The reverse has happened- after the vision document was prepared the outlays for the NEC have stagnated. In real terms, after factoring in inflation, the outlays to NEC are shrinking which is lesser than what existed five years ago. The same goes for the DONER ministry.

“While we prepare the documents, our policies and our thrust, our focus should then be guided by what is projected and assessed by the vision documents.”

“If the investments are not scaled up, or resources not provided, the gap will never be bridged.”

The preparation of Vision documents is not much of a challenge. It is not very difficult to gather people's aspirations and what are the priorities for them. The challenge is in finding the resources to back up those plans and even more in the implementation. The North East has suffered in the area of implementation because of various handicaps, some are structural, and some are resource linked. There are certain issues that cannot be addressed very readily in the context of many of the states. Particularly Meghalaya, land is a constraint. The land does not belong to the government and all projects, all developmental work has to take place on the land. There is a serious apprehension with the people as land belongs to the community,

individuals or to the clan. There is a serious apprehension on their part because any effort by the government to acquire the land or to develop projects is seen to lead to alienation of people from their land or basic resources. While it was reminded that this request was not one stating that land owners should not be compensated for alienation, but it was a request by a resource constrained state as compensation has been considered a challenge which needs to be addressed.

Cost of implementation tends to be very high. In the hilly States, the working season is limited due to rainfall because of which human resource is a challenge. The capacity building of human resources requires certain amount of handholding and investments from the Central government.

Aspiration of Meghalaya- Meghalaya does not have an airport which has regular air service even today. When asked for the same, all kinds of questions are raised, whether it is economically viable, whether it is necessary, who will invest, how much of investment is required. All put together the total investment required in the region will be 200 crore. It was asked whether it is a challenge for the Government of India in today's date to provide 200 crore to have a world class airport in Meghalaya. It was further mentioned that it is easier to go to Delhi than to come to Shillong from other parts of the North East. In the 21st century, if Government of India says that it cannot connect all state capitals and have regular flights connecting these capitals, it is a challenge. All other aspirations would be secondary, if for some reason, all State capitals are not interconnected and in the North East, the State capitals are not connected by flights.

Technical Session 1: Panel Discussion: Integrating Vision 2030 Agenda into Planning and Implementation

This session concentrated on integrating the Vision 2030 Agenda into the planning and implementation. Mr. Anurag Goel, having worked closely with the SDGs and their implementation in certain states and along with ministries was called to set the context and framework of the SDGs. Mr. Singh was called to outline the challenges specifically in the North East and the issue faced by the different states. Mr. Eapen spoke on the experiences of Assam. (Assam had taken up the SDGs and integrated them into their planning document even before they had been formally implemented.)

Speaker 1: Anurag Goel, (Retd IAS), Senior Advisor to UNDP

Three by Three framework: The framework has three elements or three arms, each of these elements have certain ingredients.

The three represent three different levels.

1. Decoding the SDGs: this is a general element which is for everybody as the SDGs require everyone to be involved.
2. Strategic architecture: this element is more for governments- Government of India, NITI Aayog, Ministries and the state governments have to create.
3. Fundamental challenges need to be dealt with at a global community level.

Ingredients of 'Decoding the SDGs':

1. Everything for Everyone by Everyone: if one wants the goals to be implemented for everyone, it requires the participation of everyone as well. The implications of the same are huge. It requires a totally new kind of government structure, through communication styles and new mind sets.
2. Glocal, Localisation: the global efforts and local initiatives have to go hand in hand. It is a two way process- the knowledge cannot simply come down. It requires receptivity from what is coming from what is coming from the ground.
3. People, Partnerships and Projects: SDGs need to be made into a people's movement and it requires partnerships. The SDGs cannot be achieved without a *partnership web*. It is not simply a network, it's a web- everything is connected to everything. To deliver, one needs to get specific and reduce it to specific projects at all levels which have to be implemented.

Ingredients of "Strategic Architecture":

The July document of Vision and Strategic Architecture brought out by the Government of Assam gives the strategic architecture framework which is generic and can be used at any government level. This has three ingredients. Pages 6 to 10 of this document would give a framework useful to all the states.

1. Single Synergized Initiative: Assam government was the first in the country to bring out a GO (government order) saying that from 1st January, SDGs will be launched and gave a whole strategy. The first point was a single, harmonized, synergized initiative. It means a complete reinvention of governance, i.e. having a future ready government, it requires all growth plans, all welfare schemes to be brought out, break down silos, change mind sets and therefore think, structure and process differently. In MDGs everyone was given their own roles and implemented their own programmes. This kind of conversation never took place then.
2. Technology, Innovation, Knowledge Management, Management of Change: extremely important in today's context. Disruptive Technologies (McKinsey did a study in 2013 and came out with 12 of them); to give an example, 3D printing and once it starts in a big way would change manufacturing, supply chains. Technology will change a lot of things. The 4th Industrial Revolution will change everything and therefore thinking has to be aligned and changed the same way. Management of Change would involve not routine management but transformational management. This is only possible with a mass movement outside with the people as well as within the government. Unless the process is worked upon consciously, results will not be seen.
3. Mobilization & Utilization of Resources: resources are always spoken in terms of budget and finance; however that is not simply what resources entail. In the Assam

Document, there are 7 kinds of resources mentioned- financial resources, human resources, land resources, infrastructure resources, biological resources, IT resources and institutional resources. These 7 resources are utilized thus for 17 goals (7 for 17). This is the resource architecture.

Ingredients of 'Fundamental Challenges'

1. Foresight, Back casting (Travel in Time Machine): one has to go to 2030, be there see what is happening, unless one is able to see the future, SDGs cannot be delivered upon. Therefore back casting has to be adopted to see what is required.
2. Transforming Functionaries to Extraordinary People: This is different from capacity building. Institutional structures are required not simply leadership
3. Think Resources **NOT** Money: Think Uber, it is the largest vehicle provider in the world today and owns not a single vehicle, the vehicles and the drivers already existed and weren't being used. Similarly, resources exist all over the country, in communities which are not being utilized because of the lack of identification.

Speaker 2: Vikram Singh Gaur, Joint Secretary, NITI Aayog

The authorities at NITI Aayog realized that the North East is one area which requires special attention. From the economist perspective, NITI Aayog has tried to identify the issues that have to be addressed.

The government Plans and Programmes have been addressing the same concerns brought forth under the SDGs for the last 30/40 years in one or the other areas and therefore they are not new but requires a sincere and committed effort.

Salient features:

1. Eight States of North East endowed with large amount of forest and natural resources account for almost 8 per cent of geographical area of the country, and
2. 4 per cent of the total population of India (Census 2011).
3. The region shares more than 4,500 kilometres of International border with South and Southeast Asia. In the vision being prepared by NITI Aayog, it is proposed that the border should not be treated as a constraint but looked at as an opportunity. NITI Aayog intends to incorporate the utilization of border areas for international trade with neighbouring areas.
4. Due to the presence of perennial river systems, the region has tremendous potential for generation of hydro-electric power.
5. Potential for wide spread promotion of horticulture, floriculture and eco-tourism.

Figure 1: Per-Capita Income (2014-15)

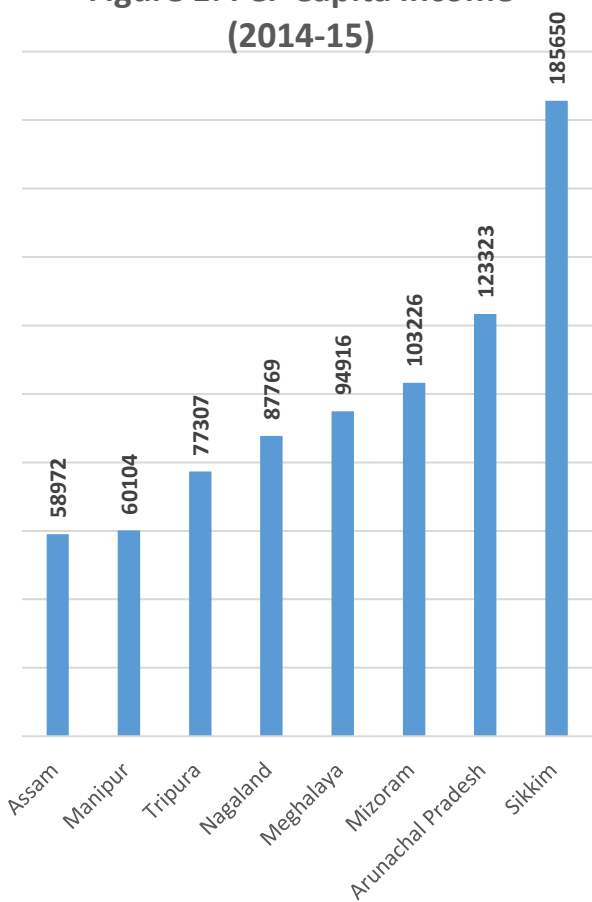
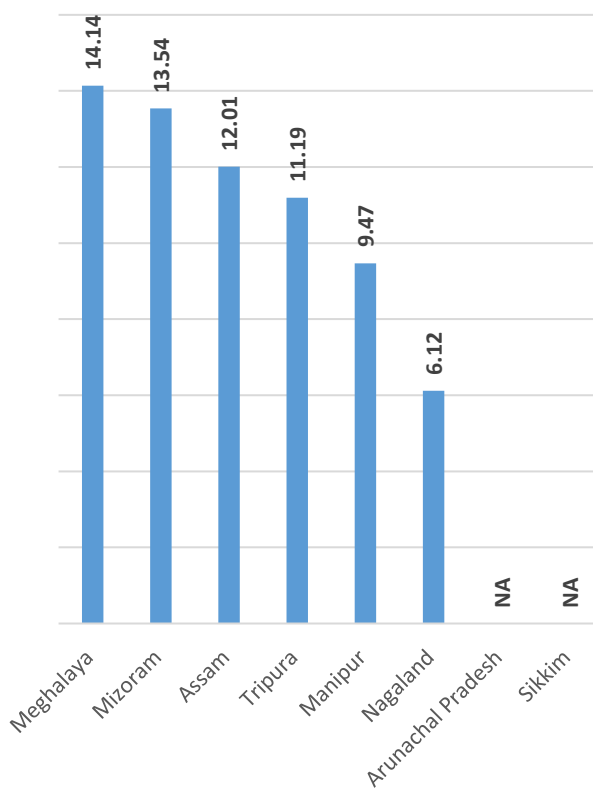


Figure 2: Percentage Growth Rate of GSDP (over the period 2011-12 to 2014-15)



SOURCE – GSDP – BUDGET DOCUMENTS & CAG REPORTS OF STATES

Per Capita scenario:

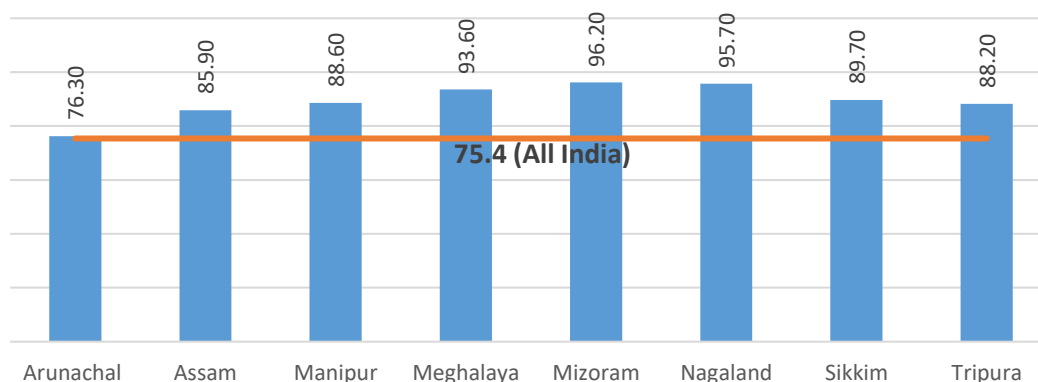
Among all the 8 states, Sikkim has the highest per capita income for the year 2014-15. The figures range from 58,972 in Assam to 185,650 in Sikkim. Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland have a better per capita income than Assam which is the most densely populated state among all North East States.

The percentage growth rate of GSDP reveal that Meghalaya is growing the fastest with the annual growth of over 14 per cent. . However, the figures of Arunachal and Sikkim are not available.

Human Development Indicators of the states in the North East compared to the national average

1. Education:

Figure 3: LITERACY RATES



SOURCE: NSSO 71ST ROUND (2014)

The all India Literacy rate is 75.4 per cent. The literacy rates in all the states in the North East are above the national average. Based on simply this level, the North East is developing very well.

The problem can be identified through the data of elementary education, the drop-out rate in all the states in the North East barring Sikkim and Tripura is higher than the national average. The figures reflect a similar situation in both primary and upper primary education. The people working in the education sector must check the drop-out rates.

Table1: Elementary Education					
State	Pupil Teacher Ratio (Primary with Upper Primary)	Transition Rate (Primary to Upper Primary)	Ratio of Girls to Boys enrolment (Grades I– V)	Drop-out rate	
				Primary	Upper Primary
All India	29	90.1	0.93	4.13	4.03
Arunachal Pradesh	17	97.0	0.95	10.82	0.32
Assam	14	85.6	0.98	15.36	10.51
Manipur	12	84.7	0.98	9.66	4.20
Meghalaya	19	94.7	1.00	9.46	6.52
Mizoram	16	96.0	0.93	10.10	4.78
Nagaland	12	87.3	0.95	5.61	7.92
Sikkim	8	93.1	0.89	2.27	1.57
Tripura	12	91.3	0.96	1.28	1.99

SOURCE: DISE 2015-16

Similarly, when one looks at the figures for higher education, the availability of institutions in the North East is very poor.

Table 2: Higher Secondary Education					
States	University and University Level Institutions	Total Colleges	GER in Higher Education (18-23 years)	Gender Parity Index in higher Education	Pupil-teacher Ratio in Higher education (all institutions, regular & distance mode)
All India	760	34452	24.3	0.92	23
Arunachal Pradesh	8	27	28.2	0.97	49
Assam	19	538	14.8	0.93	25
Manipur	3	86	35.9	0.94	21
Meghalaya	10	63	20.5	1.07	20
Mizoram	3	29	23.3	0.98	18
Nagaland		65	15.6	1.06	19
Sikkim	7	14	30.3	1.14	17
Tripura	3	48	16.8	0.67	31

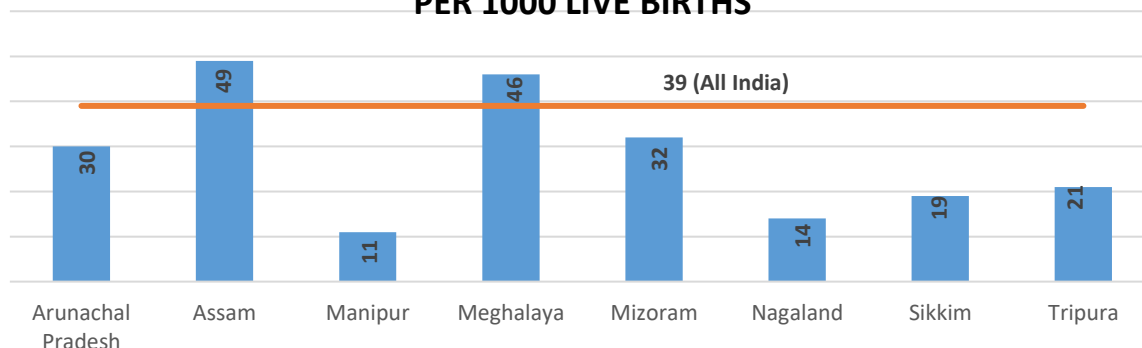
SOURCE: All India Survey on Higher Education 2014-15, MoHRD

Top Priorities or overall development of Education in the North East Region:

- a) Arresting the drop-out rate at elementary and secondary stage through availability of transport and hostel facilities.
- b) Area specific requirement in sparsely populated regions needs to be addressed.
- c) Availability of trained teachers to improve quality of education.
- d) Adequate school infrastructure in terms of building and infrastructure.
- e) Improving learning outcomes
- f) Strengthening and expanding the higher education.
- g) The high literacy of the region should be harnessed by skilling the youth and providing vocational education. Skill development is very important and is being stressed by the Government of India.

- 2. Health:** In terms of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), other than Assam and Meghalaya, all other states in the North East are doing better than the national average.

**Figure 4: INFANT MORTALITY RATE(IMR)
PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS**



SOURCE: SRS 2014

Development Challenges in the Health Sector

- Only 2 per cent of the sub-centres are functional as per the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms as against the national average of 25 per cent and only 5.82 per cent of primary health centres are functional as against the national average of 20.79 per cent. The poor functioning of health centres needs to be urgently addressed.
- Deficiencies in health human resources were also prominent across the region.
- The calorie requirement in hilly areas is higher, so is the cost of living as compared to the plains.

Therefore, the North East States face certain inadequacies in the health care delivery system viz, health care personnel, institutions, and infrastructure in rural and tribal areas.

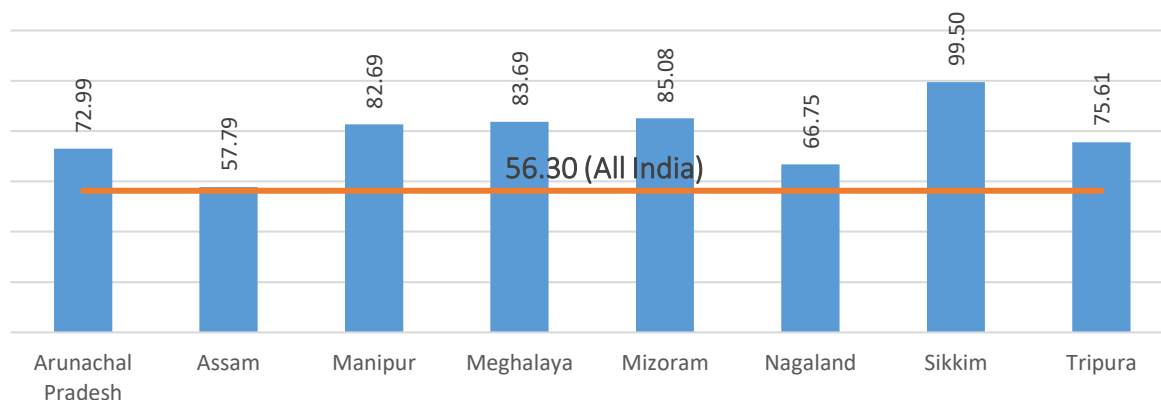
The Top Priorities:

- Increasing the numbers of trained medical manpower
- Improving access to health care services to sparsely populated remote and far flung areas.
- Development of quality and specialised health care institutions and personnel.

3. Sanitation and Drinking Water:

56.3 per cent of rural households at the national level have sanitation coverage. The North Easter States appear to be doing better on scale where Sikkim has almost reached full sanitation coverage with 99.5 per cent of rural households having sanitation coverage.

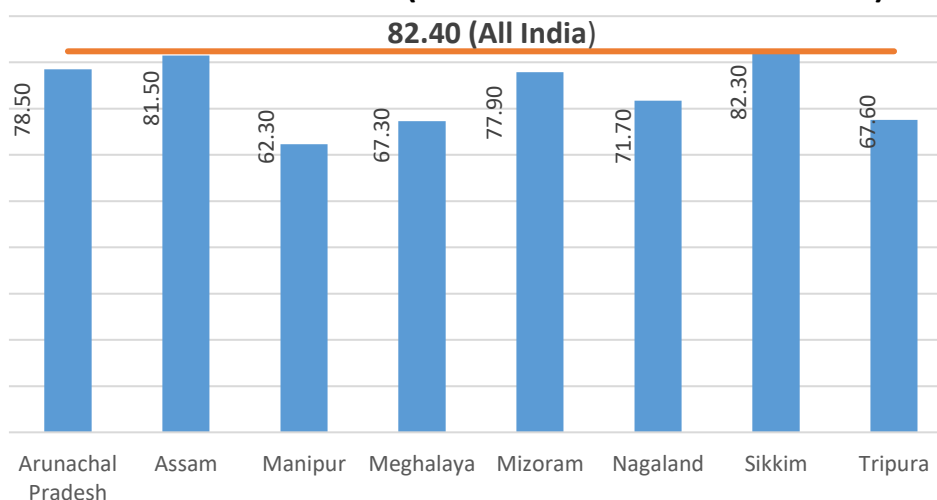
Figure 5: PERCENTAGE OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS WITH SANITATION COVERAGE



SOURCE: SWATCHH BHARAT MISSION-GRAMIN MIS 2016

According to the 2011 Census figures, the National average of households with drinking water availability is 82.4 per cent. The States in the North East are just about touching this figure, varying from 62.3 per cent in Manipur to 82.3 per cent in Sikkim. However, with the abundance of rain water, to make drinking water available to all remains a challenge of efficient utilization of resources.

Figure 6: PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH DRINKING WATER AVAILABILITY (WITHIN AND NEAR PREMISES)



SOURCE: CENSUS 2011

State Governments' Finances

For the year 2015-16, Arunachal Pradesh had a deficit of 2,300 crore rupees, Assam had a deficit of 5,500 crore rupees and so on. The liabilities are proportional with the exception of Assam whose liabilities go up to 40,000 crore.

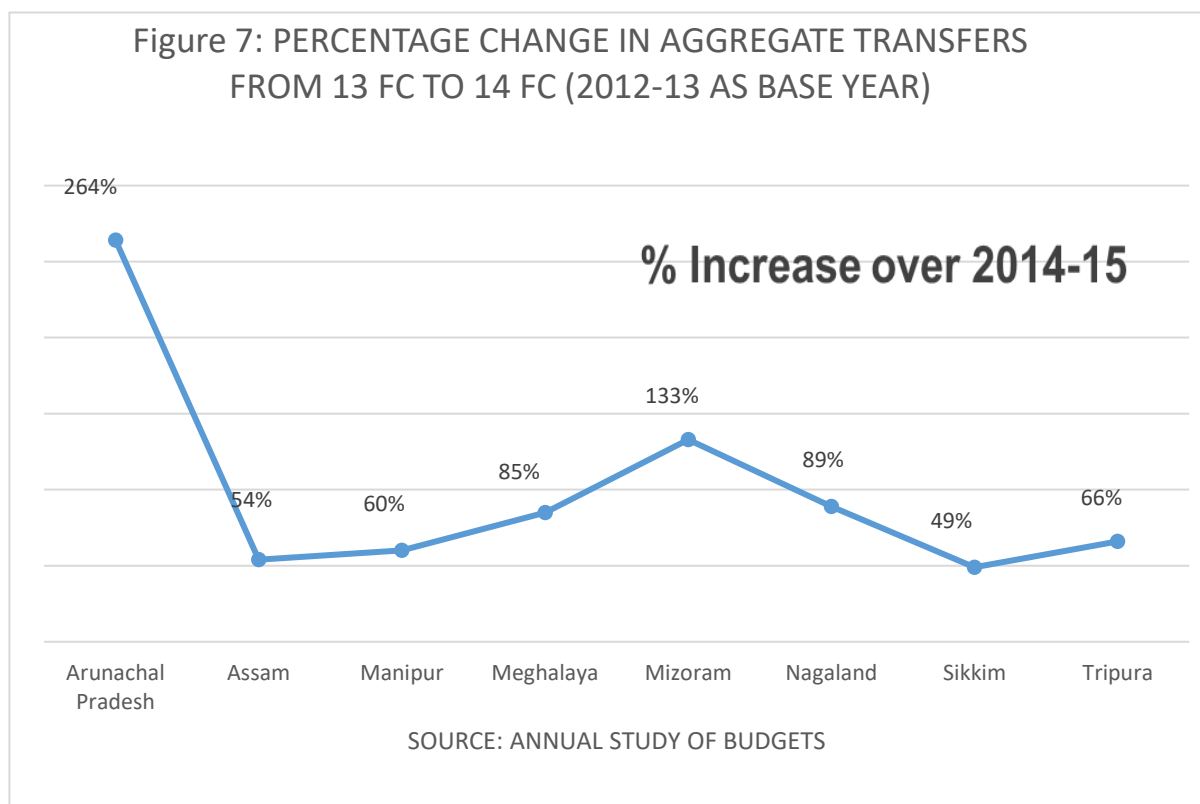
What is important to understand is whether the expenditure incurred by the states has been in meaningful projects or not. Such areas must be looked into.

States	Revenue	Expenditure	Deficit	Liabilities
Arunachal Pradesh	11600	9300	-2300	800
Assam	57100	51600	-5500	40000
Manipur	8700	8000	-700	7900
Meghalaya	8400	7600	-800	8200
Mizoram	7200	6100	-1100	8200
Nagaland	8900	8700	-200	8200
Sikkim	4800	4300	-500	-
Tripura	12500	9100	-3400	10500

Source – Annual Study of Budgets, Reserve Bank of India – 2015-16

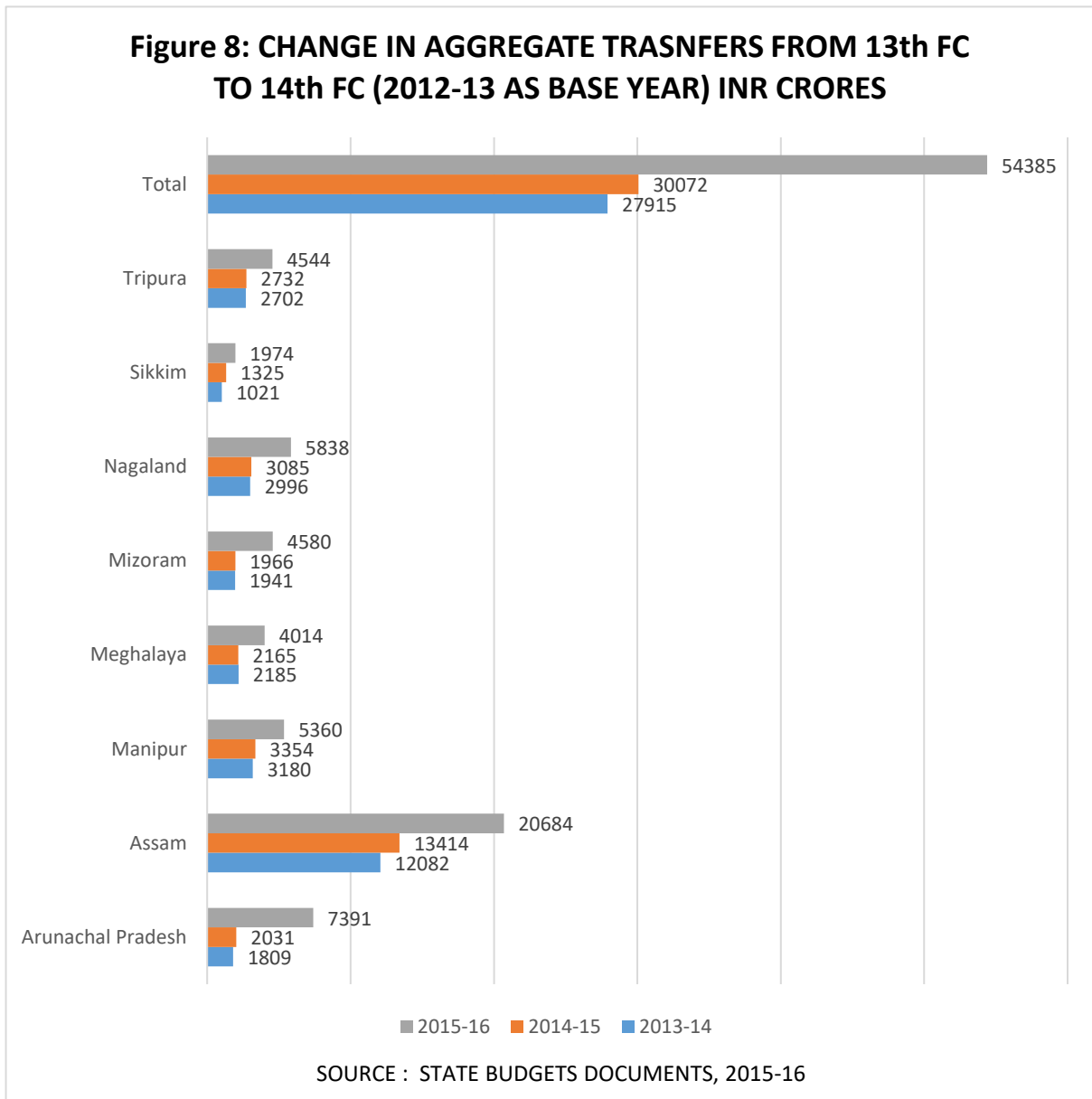
Scenario after 14th Financial commission

The numbers that NITI Aayog has analysed reveal that the transfers of funds have increased multifold. Arunachal Pradesh has received 264 per cent more fund transfers than the previous year with the least being in Sikkim which is also 49 per cent higher.



The focus of the 14th financial commission has been to give money to the states so that they can plan their schemes and programmes as per their local needs. Throughout the planning process, there has been a huge demand for budgets to address local requirements and needs as centrally sponsored schemes cannot address them effectively. Therefore states demanded certain autonomy to plan their schemes independently. The 14th FC undertook this task in a big way and allowed the devolution from 32 per cent to 42 pe cent. Thus, the fund flow has gone to the state and now it is up to the states to utilize funds to address the social sector for real development indicators to be tackled and improved.

Figure 8: CHANGE IN AGGREGATE TRASNFERS FROM 13th FC TO 14th FC (2012-13 AS BASE YEAR) INR CRORES



State Development Expenditure

The Development Expenditure concerns the areas of the social sector investment- educational, health and so on. In 2015-16, while the fund flow towards the states has increased, the expenditure towards development by the states is more or less stagnant except a few states. This implies that the funds given to the states are not being utilized for the social sector development programmes. In Arunachal Pradesh, for example, the expenditure towards social development was 8,600 crore rupees in 2014-15 before the devolution of funds; in 2015-16 it has come down to 8,080 crore rupees. Similarly, in Assam, from 44,790 crore rupees it has come down to 42,230 crore rupees. In Mizoram, Manipur and Meghalaya, the expenditure has reduced greatly. The expenditure towards development has somewhat increased in Nagaland and Tripura. Investment in social sector has largely gone down despite the renewed autonomy through the 14th finance commission which gives the states liberty to plan and implement.

Table 4: STATE DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE (In Rs Crores)

States	2011-12 (Accounts)	2012-13 (Accounts)	2013-14 (Accounts)	2014-15 (RE)	2015-16 (BE)
Arunachal Pradesh	5020	4490	5460	8600	8080
Assam	16900	18870	22280	44790	42230
Manipur	4100	4120	4010	7160	5830
Meghalaya	4190	4310	4730	9550	6940
Mizoram	3010	3680	3800	5460	4880
Nagaland	3570	4110	4050	5600	5980
Sikkim	2290	2370	2710	4320	3840
Tripura	3910	4250	4870	8450	9980

SOURCE: ANNUAL STUDY OF BUDGETS, RBI

There is a need to enhance development expenditure through the following means:

- Central transfers from States – The FFC recommendation to increase devolution from 32 per cent to 42 per cent provides greater financial autonomy to States and in turn results in increased expenditure in social, economic and infrastructural sectors.
- Weeding out unproductive expenditure to enhance fiscal space for development spending.
- Improving tax efforts/administration including the application of information technology and raising user charges on quasi-public service provided by the States.
- Raising revenue from own resources and prioritising expenditures.

Top Priorities in Financial Inclusion

- Expedite the implementation of Jan Dhan Yojana
- Digitalization and Aadhar seeding of beneficiaries of DBT schemes.
- Access to banking needs to be improved by branch expansion and taking assistance from bank correspondents.
- Credit Deposit Ratio has to be stepped up to enable savings.
- Increase absorption capacity for institutional credit.

Investment and Manufacturing Sector

Ranking the North Eastern States according to the ease of doing business reveals the following:

State	Rank	Score
Tripura	22	16.57
Assam	24	14.29
Nagaland	27	1.49
Manipur	28	1.19
Mizoram	29	0.89
Sikkim	30	0.60
Arunachal Pradesh	31	0.30
Meghalaya	34	0.30

Why is the North East trailing in this sector? Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are competing with each other to get the maximum investments by making their environment investment friendly as one cannot rely solely on government expenditure and investment for development, priority investments are required. This ranking must be addressed by each State and steps should be taken to improve it.

Reform Areas include: Construction Permit enablers, Environment registration enablers, labour regulation enablers, obtaining electricity connection, online tax return filing, Inspection reforms enablers, Access to Information and Transparency enablers, Single window and Availability of land

1. Manufacturing

Special fiscal package under North East Industrial Policy has so far failed to trigger major Investment flow in the region in the manner it was conceived.

- a) Action plan for wellness industry.
- b) Action plan for agro and food processing units.
- c) Well-coordinated programme for revival of local industry to promote local products and artisans and link it with border trade.

2. Infrastructure and Connectivity

- a) Improving infrastructure and connectivity is an important precondition for social and economic mobility and market integration.
- b) Will transform the NER into one of prosperity by linking it to the rest of India and South East Asian Countries.
- c) Time bound completion of ongoing projects in roads, roadways, water, airways and power.
- d) Building the required infrastructures right up to the border areas, establishing connectivity and communication links to the cross border points to promote trade and economic exchanges with the countries neighbouring the NER as proposed to be promoted under the "Act East Policy".
- e) Harnessing of Hydro-electric power will not only energize the NER but surplus power would help the country as a whole.

3. Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods

- a) Irrigation, flood control, water harvesting, prevention of soil erosion to ensure higher agriculture productivity.
- b) Wide spread promotion of horticulture, floriculture, including organic farming to highly remunerative niche markets abroad.
- c) Diversify the farming and increase the productivity and monetary returns that farmers get from their produce which require infrastructure development and also price support.
- d) Providing support to producers and marketing agencies for organic farming, strengthening animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries.
- e) Processing of organic products in a mission mode under Make In India campaign through capacity building such as creation of mega food parks, institution and industry linkages for development of farmers and youth into entrepreneur.

4. Tourism and hospitality

- a) There is a growing demand for experience and adventure tourism and the NER is well placed to cater to this.
- b) Eco-tourism can play an important role in providing sustainable development and livelihood.
- c) Implement and execute identified circuits covering national parks, lakes and historical sites under the scheme for Product/Infrastructure development for destinations and circuits.
- d) Mapping North East's huge range of remaining tourist attractions

5. ICT Policies

- a) There is a growing demand for experience and adventure tourism and the NER is well placed to cater to this.
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- c) Implement and execute identified circuits covering national parks, lakes and historical sites under the scheme for Product/Infrastructure development for destinations and circuits.
- d) Mapping North East's huge range of remaining tourist attractions

The Way Forward

1. NER has the highest literacy rates among the Indian States. This coupled with the right vocational skills is just what is required for the development of the region.
2. However this potential is being stifled by inadequate access to quality education, vocational education, training in languages, training in computers & IT, technical training and training in business and management skills.
3. A staggering 14 million people are expected to move out of the North East between 2011 and 2021 in search of jobs elsewhere in the country according to a NSDC study.
4. The region will generate 2.6 million jobs, but the manpower supply will be 16.8 million persons.

5. There is a need for twin approach for skill development for both local employment and those who seek to migrate.
6. Setting up academies for wellness and hospitality.

Speaker 3: K V Eapen, Additional Secretary, Assam Assam

Mr. Eapen presented Assam's journey towards Sustainable Goals. The journey began much before 1st January 2016 when Assam Government had a brainstorming exercise and launched the goals on 1st January 2016. Initially it was an acceptance by the state government of Assam led by the Chief Secretary that the SDGs would be the long term agenda for the State of Assam. The Chief Secretary felt that if the state wasn't concentrating on the SDGs then what was it doing.

The SDGs cover every aspect of what one should be doing as a state, as a government and therefore Mr. Eapen said that there was no question of having something beyond the SDGs as they cover everything. Therefore Assam accepted the SDGs almost as soon as they were announced by the UN in the general assembly in September 2015. After accepting the goals, Assam began drafting a Vision document for the state.

In the month of December 2015, the state released a few government orders (GOs) to launch the initiative from 2016 January.

The planning and development department of the state was notified as the coordinating department and is the nodal department for the SDGs. It is very important to have a core department.

Secondly, it was seen, from the experience of the MDGs that one cannot look at this issue from purely silo terms. One needs to have a holistic approach which should be synergized. Implementation of the SDGs in any state requires a synergized initiative involving all other departments. Therefore the state of Assam created 10 working groups to tackle the 17 goals, each headed by senior officers, cutting across different departments. For example, the rural department is not solely responsible to end poverty, neither is improvement of health the sole responsibility of the health department: it has to cut across.

In the Partnership Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on February 10 & 11, 2016 at Guwahati, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute, Columbia University USA addressed the inaugural session via Skype. The Earth Institute is collaborating with Government of Assam in implementing the SDGs).

“It is truly special that Assam has become the first Indian state to formally adopt the SDGs for its development path. Sound policy-making requires long-term planning that integrates strategies across many challenges.....”

(January 5, 2016 - in a letter)

“Assam’s approach to maintain balance on the three pillars of development viz. economic, social and environmental through adoption of SDGs in the State on mission mode will rejuvenate the whole world”.

(February 10, 2016 - on Skype)

Institutional set up: The SDG Centre

It was considered to be important to have intellectual and administrative back up. The P&D department (or any department by itself) cannot achieve the goals on its own, it requires constant coordination, intellectual back up as well as a push once in a while as these departments are quite busy.

The centre for SDGs at the administrative staff college headed by Dr. R.N Dubey along with the expert guidance of Mr. Anurag Goel and Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee was set up as an institutional backbone for the SDGs in Assam. This centre serves as the repository and knowledge hub for the process going ahead. This centre in collaboration with the planning department provides guidance to the line departments in developing the framework for planning towards achieving the SDGs and in devising the monitoring mechanisms for the same. This Centre, further organizes SDG related training and capacity building measures through seminars, workshops, discussions and so on

The new government adopted and gave its commitment over the SDG exercise, *Assam 2030: Our dreams, our Commitment*. The **commitment has to** flow right from the top.

This document was formally submitted to NITI Aayog on 20th August’2016 and was unveiled by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Assam on 3rd of October 2016. It gives a broad framework to guide the departments for preparing their 7 year Strategy plans and 3 year action plans. Further, as presented by Mr. Goel, the document adopted three ingredients involved in the strategic architecture.

Many states in the North East often reiterate their dependence on the centre without realising the resources present in the States. These resources are not simply monetary in nature, there are human resources, skills and all sort of innovative practices that exist in the society as a whole but are never tapped. Identification of resources must, thus go beyond monetary terms; the Assam document has attempted to identify them.

During April and May, 2016, a series of 21 structured presentations, created by the 10 working groups, were held to sensitize the Departments for making goal-wise SDGs plan. These action plans were presented to all officers with the Centre for SDGs as the core point for conducting training on the SDGs. This process ensured that the message of the SDGs went down to all levels of governance. These kind of meetings and trainings should be part of the strategy used by the states in trying to get the message across as it is not important to keep it solely at the government level. The message of the SDGs should be broadened to the NGOs, the private sector as well as to the civil society at large.

UNDP & its associate agencies and OKD Institute of Social Change & Development are currently consulted by the State for initiating collaborative activities towards planning and monitoring of SDGs in the State. The government of Assam is also planning to forge partnership with academic institutes, industries and civil societies for achieving inclusive development through successful implementation of the sustainable development plans in the State.

The next step is to move from planning to effective implementation. The first result of the overall exercise was the implementation of the Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY) on rural development. The major focus of the CMSGUY mission is to double the farm income of all farmers by 2022 in the state. However, this programme is not simply linked with agriculture, it is holistic, and it cuts across almost 7 different sectors. The genesis is in the SDG exercise that was undertaken as it made people think holistically.

Human Development Indicators

Assam shows a high IMR and MMR. However, these overall figures must be disaggregated as they tend to hide many points. One of the points that was clear after disaggregation was that there are certain populations which are left out of development and there has to be concentration on those populations. The MMR and IMR of the tea garden and riverine areas bring down the overall growth indicators of the State. Therefore, it is important to focus attention on areas of the states that need to be targeted.

State Budget and SDGs

For the first time, the State government budget was formulated with the SDGs as its main focal point. The CMSGUY was launched in this particular budget. It is required of all states to move from the overall perspective to actual budgetary allocation and also to launch programmes. Similarly, Assam's Outcome Budget and quantification of targets and indicators will take place in terms of the SDGs.

The consolidation of this information will enable to analyse the focus received by the particular SDG/Target in the Assam Budget 2016-17 and also to identify the gaps to ascertain the rationalisation of resource allocation for each Goal as per state priority for preparing the Budget 2017-18. This exercise will form the input document in preparation of Outcome Budget-2017-18.

Identification of Indicators to achieve the SDGs

The identification of indicators to achieve the goals has been considered extremely important by the State of Assam. 52 indicators have been identified to look at what should be the achievements in the State. The Government of Assam has decided to incorporate a chapter on SDGs with core indicators, targets and benchmarks in the Economic Survey (Assam) Report for the year 2016-17. Further, an exercise to finalize these indicators with the National indicators is under process with NITI Aayog.

Assam Human Development Report 2014

The information presented in the Human Development Report of Assam has helped the state plan for the SDGs. The Broad Messages of the Assam HDR helped formulate the Vision

document and also the Action Plan (7 year Strategic Plan and 5 year Action Plan). They are as follows:

1. **Growth needs to be translated into greater human development** -presently at the halfway – all three dimensions – income, health, education.
2. **Managing diversities are critical** for achieving human development.
3. **Employment is Fundamental** in making growth process Inclusive – quality and security.
4. Not only children ‘going to’ matters but **children staying in school matters more.**
5. **Children’s health and nutrition is crucial** for sustainable human development.
6. **Negotiating with environmental externalities is vital** for resilience & sustainability of human development
7. **Processes are equally and intrinsically important** as outcomes and achievements (Governance Issues).
8. **Addressing inequalities of all form is both fundamental and indispensable** for enhancing human development.
9. Stresses upon the **need of a differentiated approach** rather than a homogeneous one – the Report justifies and offers necessary pointers for such an approach.

In the government system, there is a requirement of department wise measurements. The Assam Government is working on the same. They will work on those particular targets and they will be measured in terms of the overall goal that Assam has set to achieve.

The Assam government has extended help to provide details of their visioning process to any state that requires it and has also mentioned that the Centre for SDGs is available for consultation.

SDGs Vision Document and Assam HDR 2014 can be downloaded from P&D’s Website: planassam.info

Discussion and Questions after Session 1

I. Mr. Thong, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Nagaland:

1. As far as the new system under NITI Aayog is concerned, the north Eastern states are losing in terms of block grants SPA, SCA AND NCA. Perhaps, barring Assam and Meghalaya, it is having a negative impact. Nagaland is losing to the tune of 1,700 crore rupees per annum. The devolution of funds has had a negative effect.
2. NEIIPP which was started in 2007 was suspended in 2014. Asked whether it was still under suspension as it has virtually brought industrialisation to a halt.
3. Stated that he was against concepts like smart city and urban villages. It was asked why should there be schemes of all departments in one village whereas some villages don't even have one scheme. Further, the existence and construction of a few smart cities was questioned while other cities and villages have no amenities. It was raised that this is against the Directive Principles of State Policy. Adding, he said that the policy should be such that it should bridge the divide and gap within the various areas. These kinds of concepts are increasing the gap.

Responding, Mr. Gaur said that according to the figures from GoI and RBI, in the year 2014, 2,996 crore were given to government of Nagaland. In 2013-14 it was 3085 crore rupees. But in 2015-16, 5,838 crore rupees i.e. roughly around 1,700 crore rupees more was given to the Government of Nagaland- same is the pattern of all states. These figures are authentic and are available in the public domain. Adding, he said that if the states feel that the devolution has affected them adversely, it will be addressed. Through the figures though it is indicated that only Uttarakhand's fund flow has gone down after the 14th FC award and this has been brought to light. For the year 2015-16, NITI Aayog recommended that special assistance should be given to the State. The same is being addressed for the year 2016-17. However, as far as the North East is concerned, no specific letter has been received to show that their fund flow has gone down after the 14th FC award. The finance ministry and RBI have been indicating, in the parliament as well, that the fund flow has increased ever since devolution. As far as the funds for special projects are concerned that has been stopped and that is a concern to be addressed and required to be looked into by the states themselves.

Mr. Eapen added that this debate has been ongoing- the states say that it has gone down, the centre says it has increased. He asked the states to accept this as the new paradigm which requires a new way of thinking. Have to look at it from internal reform perspective. Is it possible to function when internal resource generation is next to nothing and one has to constantly rely on the Centre?

Further, reacting to the question raised on smart cities, Mr. Gaur said that the programme by the Ministry of Urban Development has been implemented for the cities that have already grown and therefore it is not a village vs. city scenario. Even for the SDGs, a good city environment is required- if people are living in a hostile environment or not getting the basic amenities, they also need attention. This programme has nothing to do with a comparison between cities and villages.

II. Devika Sharma Chhetri, Director Planning, HRD Department, Government of Sikkim:

An observation upon the entire planning process envisaged- Vision 2030 is excellent as it has encompassed the long term, medium term and short term planning strategies which is a welcome change because it evokes a critical thinking in the planning process which was grossly lacking across all states. Giving the anecdote of Sikkim, it was raised that with respect to preparing the plan for the SDGs, only a letter from NITI Aayog was received. Further, it stated that the department has to think in these lines and develop the SDGs, there was no consultative workshop or any kind of guidance that was received. The entire state machinery got into a

process of planning without inducing any critical thinking which results in losing out to what needs to be given attention to. Assam seems to have done a very good job and has evolved indicators as a mechanism to grade the State. Unless and until all States instil the impression of critical thinking as well as taking it along the growth process, nothing will be implemented. Further, it was stated that what was grossly lacking was the lack of methodology as a framework to achieve the Vision or even to envisage oneself in the year 2030. The request to NITI Aayog is that it come back to individual states and see what has been left out to see and to see whether SDGs have achieved the purpose for what it has actually been designed for.

Vision 2030 for Sikkim is ready. The concern arises with respect to its implementation; if Sikkim can be guided along the way so that it achieves what has been envisioned. There is no point of going about anything without a methodology. Requested guidance from NITI or UNDP

Mr. Jaco Cilliers responded, stating that there was actually nothing prescribed, even globally, before the process was started. Asked the State of Assam to explain the methodology used to begin the process.

Responding, Mr. Eapen reminded the states that it is important to know where one is, implying that each department should engage in such a process. Next is to develop the vision for 2030 i.e. where does one want to be in 2030? If a state has 50 per cent literacy or 70 per cent and wants to go up to 100 per cent, that would represent an overall figure. It would be more important to look at, as an example, learning outcomes in education. Reiterating Mr. Goel's take on back-casting for the SDGs, Mr Eapen asked the states to be clear on where they want to be and what they want to be in 2030 and then work backwards. Seeing where you want to be in the future to develop various goals for the present and immediate future along with identification of institutions, investments. One must also take into account that the budgets might not go up, therefore the states must identify what resources are available and then plan for this exercise.

Mr. Goel added that Assam required 5-6 months of intensive brainstorming, in an open, non-silo approach. It is an internal exercise.

Concluding, Mr.Cilliers pointed out that the SDGs just provide the states with a framework, it is a good integrated planning tool. It is the best global practice and just that. Within it, every state has to work with its context and its own dynamics.

III. Jeevan Phukan, Consultant, SDG Cell, Assam Administrative Staff College

1. The presentation showed that all the North Eastern States have reduced expenditure on social development schemes during 2015-16. However the reason this has happened needs to be observed. Earlier, the states received block grants in terms of SPA, SCA, the states also had some permitted liabilities in terms of capital expenditure. However in 2015-16, the funding for those schemes were stopped, as a result the states that have already created liabilities had to divert those funds in clearing liabilities for this capital expenditure. This might be a reason that needs to be examined.
2. Invoking SDG 10, reducing inequality within and among countries, it was said that the GDP of the North Eastern States is below the national average, therefore an indicator in the core and national list should be imbedded- 'reduce inequality in terms of GDP among the states' so that these states can get a better opportunity to get more resources devolved from the centre to the states.

- IV. Dr. Neeranjan Roy, WHO: India is such a diverse country, it has so many different states, each state has so many different districts and each district has its own set of problems. How does one develop indicators that can compare, for instance, a remote and isolated hamlet in a remote corner of a hill with a fishermen community near the sea? How does one develop indicators for such a diverse population?

Mr. Cilliers pointed out that this question can be read in multiple ways; the first is about the states that are often left behind, the second is, how do you deal with the specifics of different communities, different districts, different areas- how would you develop plans taking this into account as well as carry forward the implementation? Lastly, there are a lot of good documents, lots of good ideas but how do we ensure that they don't just land up on a shelf somewhere and doesn't end up becoming living documents?

Mr. Goel said that the internet is a very powerful communication platform, monitoring platform as well as delivery platform where 3.2 crore people of Assam could be connected. This would be at the conceptual level. At the practical level, communication holds the key. All the big words boil down to two things, partnerships and communications and partnerships will come only through communication. Breaking down silos is only one part of it, effective communication is the key.

Adding, Mr. Gaur remarked that each states has its own peculiarity which was pointed out. The idea behind the SDG framework is that there should be communication with the people at the local level. Communication, local planning, deliberation will reveal the best options available.

Responding to Dr Neeranjan, Mr. Eapen clearly stated that one does not need to compare a hill side village with a sea side village. The entire exercise is a state cantered one, it is not the Government of India nor NITI Aayog that will give the states guidance. They are a resource for the states and can give an overall picture as well as put the states in touch with UNDP. The SDGs however, are state initiatives. Therefore, the state has to develop indicators for itself. There will be global indicators as well as national indicators but states have to develop their own to measure their progress against.

To conclude, Mr. Cilliers remarked that the goals are only indicative of good indicators and good measures to be used, it has to be owned. Some states might take 80 per cent of that, some might take 30 from there, some from their local plans, that doesn't matter. At the end, NITI Aayog will bring up what is relevant to the states. The indicators are only indicative, not prescriptive.

Presentation on Village Profile & Taluka Planning Atlas

Vikram Singh Gaur: Compilation of data, keeping an entry and analysing development plans on the basis of actual ground features is a big challenge. Further, data is not often available for all activities at the state level, therefore it has become a huge challenge to compile the data. If we have centrally available data, resource utilization can also become effective. This presentation gives an account of how the State of Gujarat has evolved taluka planning and village profiles using GIS mapping in their planning process. Through this data is available to all planning authorities.

Speaker: Sharif K Hudda, Director, Economics & Statistics, Government of Gujarat

All Government Departments are working for the betterment of people and working on improving the quality of life of the people- specifically for the rural citizens who have problem in the access to many facilities and institutions- they are developing amenities and providing services in the villages. This requires decision-making for where and for what the resources are to be allocated.

Data exists, but with different departments. At the district level, this data has to be integrated and made available to the district level administrator or decision maker(s) for effective resource allocation and utilization. The 'Village Profile and Taluka Planning Atlas' project is a response to such a need.

A GIS based decision support system called the Village Profile and Taluka Planning Atlas was presented as a model for inclusive development or a balanced regional development of the state.

In absence of the data in the planning process, the decision taken is often demand driven. When the demand comes from the authorities or the village level functionaries, the decision is taken on that basis. There was thus a requirement for verifiable data.

Gujarat has 33 districts, 250 talukas and 18,225 villages. To have village-wise data for over 18,000 villages is a big challenge, however, Gujarat has achieved this. The objective was to develop an institutionalized system using spatial data in the planning process to have centralised availability of data and to remove redundancy.

The first task for the state was to devise a **data collection schedule**, for this 11 sectors were identified. All departments were consulted before the formulation of this schedule. Further inputs were taken from the committee of secretaries. After the consultation from all the line departments, this schedule was finalized with over 300 parameters. The types of data captured:

Table 6: Types of Data Captured

Demography	Population, Literacy, Workers, etc.
Education	School-wise No. of students, Teachers, Amenities, etc.
Health	Availability of Facility by Type and Numbers
Electrification	Number of HH /Agricultural/Industrial Connection, etc.
Animal Husbandry	Dairy Co-Op., Service Availability
Irrigation	Source-wise Area Covered
Land Use	Land Use Pattern, Social Forestry Area, Land Holding
Roads & Transportation	Connectivity, Distance to City
Communication	Commutation, P.O., Telephone, Mobile etc.
Water Supply & Sanitation	Source of drinking water, type of drainage facility etc.
Community Development	Anganwadi, Tourism, Employment, Social Security and Other Amenities

These schedules cater to the needs of all departments in an integrated manner. For example, in terms of education, school wise data has been collected. The school wise data includes information of primary schooling, high school, number of boys, number of girls, transportation & type of transportation, location of schools, drinking water facility, and sanitation. Similarly data has been captured for the given sectors for all villages.

Collection of Data:

Data was collected from the village panchayat. In Gujarat, each panchayat has a computer with internet facility and therefore each village would have a village computer entrepreneur who helped collect and feed data into the system along with the *patwari*. This was further collected and collated at the taluka level, in each taluka there is a person from the economics and statistics department who coordinates the data collection work. Parallely, the task of developing the system has been given to BISAG (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics) which is a state owned institute.

An online web application was developed. The data level module was developed in Gujarati which is a local language to ease the implementation at the taluk and village level.

Training was given throughout the process of data collection at all levels.

To ensure the credibility of the data, at the district level, the district statistical officer coordinated all the statistical activity and randomly checked the correctness of data. Further, the line departments were to verify the data corresponding to their departments.

The Web Portal:

The web portal was launched with the participation of district collectors through a video conference. The district collectors were asked to use this data for gap analysis and to make decisions based on the same. Access has been given to each and every decision maker.

Data is updated every year and it is a sustained system being in its third year of operation. While the initial data collection was a time consuming exercise, updation takes around 3 months.

This portal has all the sectors listed. In a demonstration on PHCs, a map or the taluka planning atlas was shown with the PHCs in the location selected along with the distances. Further, multiple parameters can be charted on the map. Another demonstration of the Atlas revealed that one can see the charted out BPL families which allows for concentrated planning and implementation. Apart from this, queries can be built on the portal.

There are 103 pre-defined maps as well with the percentage and ratios on various parameters. User friendly maps allow for updation of data to get desired mapping. As far as the implementation goes; the district planning officer can make a presentation on the requirements through the atlas. Earlier data did not exist in a presentable format, the Atlas has made it possible for requirements to be presented in a pictorial manner and thus met.

Key Results

- The mode of planning has shifted from being demand driven alone to being more proactive and vetted through the electronic system. It results in equitable distribution of resources.
- For the citizen, it has led to fair allotment of Government funds across villages, inclusive development, equity of opportunity as well as overall human development.
- Public representatives, MPs and other secretaries in-charge are benefiting through successful identification of resources for planning as well as gap analysis.

This model is replicable at all levels; and with its success, the State of Gujarat has started work on urban profiling and ward wise data which will be launched in another 3-4 months.

Mr. Gaur added that the most important aspect of this facility is that they are available on the GIS map. All such features allow for actual and correct information to be derived from the system.

Mr. Hudda, continuing, said that apart from maps, reports are available too. Therefore the same data has also been presented in a report format. This is their project on micro-level planning.

Further, the system has been developed by the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics. It is not remote sensing data but the integration of the village boundaries with the data, thus, it is a simple use of technology giving required and ready data. In matters of updating the data, the portal includes a facility with the booklet of the village allowing all 300 parameters to be printed. The statistical officer in the Taluka coordinates with 70-80 villages. A meeting is conducted every month to enter and update the data.

The state has also developed an application for macro-level planning called the **Gujarat Integrated Statistical System**. While the former collects and presents village-level data, this system presents data from all sectors.

The Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) collects, the state nodal agency for statistical activities, compiles, analyzes and disseminates data. The DES further comes out with over 20 publications every year for all the sectors. However the effort that was being put in was not in correlation with the data. Therefore, seeing the need to have a portal, GISS was developed.

The GISS includes

1. Over 80 Data Sources and over 2800 data items
2. Over 400 Reports, 150 analytical reports.
3. 16 Sectoral Dashboards
4. Over 150 Major Key indicators classified into input, output and outcome indicators.
5. 24 types of Visualizations
6. Major GoI Indicators which are not available at the State level have been integrated.

The data has been classified under sectors which are in congruence with the departments of the government. Detailed data from the year 1995 is available. Further, this data, much like the Village Atlas, is not static.

The portal is a storehouse of various graphs and charts which provide easily presentable data. For example, the data on Horticulture in the State can be found- district-wise data would reveal area, production and productivity where certain states might have greater area but would be low in productivity.

Gujarat is using both micro level as well as macro level portals. It is felt that these are effective applications for decision-making and achieving the SDGs.

Discussion and Questions

- I. Nagaland has developed its database using GIS, however not gone into an exhaustive length the way Gujarat has. However, Nagaland has mapped out many villages with regard to number of PHCs and number of schools. Learning from Gujarat, the state will go ahead and map out other resources as well. The state, further requested NITI Aayog to press upon Ministry of IT & C to provide services connectivity services in the remote areas. For data sharing, though computers and the necessary infrastructure is provided by the State, without connection, no data can be shared, information cannot be collected from the districts and the block levels, nor passed on.

The state of Nagaland has also brought out its Vision 2030 with the 15 years perspective keeping the SDGs in mind. Sikkim's concern on methodology and lack of guidance was reiterated. The document that has been produced is an inclusive document with not only the perspective of the government but also that of the NGOs, the civil society and citizens. Platforms were created on social media (including a facebook account), websites were also created to gather information of what is required through the views of the people.

The government of Nagaland further said that they have tried to liberate their strengths and overcome their weaknesses, having highlighted the same in the Vision document. Financial requirements have also been projected in the Vision Document. While the State recognizes

that it has to capitalize on its resources, it has projected its requirements and placed it in front of NITI Aayog.

Mr. Gaur requested all the States in the North East-while stressing on Ministry of Information and Technology's scheme on connectivity at the panchayat level- to take up opportunities to facilitate connectivity that can reach everyone. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to make available 1024 kbps internet connection up to the panchayat level. Recently, the Central Government has also looked towards the State governments to incorporate their agencies to provide connectivity. The states should approach the Ministry of Information and technology as well as Telecom Ministry.

If the states feel that they are short of funds, they can always make a request. However such request proposals should be based on concrete data, concrete analysis along with indication of the efforts made by the state governments themselves.

NEIIPP was suspended with effect from 1st December 2014, it has now by notification 22nd November 2016, the policy has been restarted. The industries established prior to 1/12/2014 can avail subsidies along with the new units coming up now.

- II. Prince Dhawan special secretary IT and Health, Arunachal Pradesh commented that there is a divorce between what is said and what the ground reality is. When one comes to SDM Telecom Level or AGM level, those things presented in a rosy picture go for a toss. As far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned, it is impossible to achieve connectivity even at the district HQs by 2018. Seconded the views shared by the State of Nagaland on real connectivity issues in the North East. The only answers that the State has gotten is that the connectivity is not stable or has gotten cut due to laying roads and so on. However, what is true is that their contractors are not following the norms laid down, they are not digging to the requisite norms. The state requested that these issues be projected very seriously as the states in the North East do want to adopt the IT initiatives brought about in the country

-NITI aayog urged the states to keep on writing on these issues and referring to NITI Aayog whenever these issues have to be addressed.-

- III. While Commending Gujarat for its decision support system, Saurabh Sharma (Nodal Officer, Climate Change, Government of Mizoram,) raised one doubt that emerged on the scope of vulnerability assessment. With regard to different sectors and problems

Mr. Hudda responded saying that the officers of GIS system are behind that and derive data from the system. They do the analysis through the GIS. Eg school compound for anganwadi. Whenever they go to the village, they ask for village profile data- support from higher officials as well.

- IV. Jeevan Phukan, asked what process Gujarat followed to converge data from departments for planning. All silo departments collect their own data – health would collect at their own platform, similarly with education, rural development and so on. As a planning tool, at the taluka level or district level, data isn't available as a convergence. Gathering data in such a manner requires cooperation from all silo departments.

Mr. Hudda replied whilst looking at one sector such as BPL data. This data is collected by the rural development department, it is available on the portal and is taken every year from the department and uploaded. Sanitation data is collected by the district statistical officer from the field. There is a coordination with the line ministries at the state level as well as district level.

- V. Onkon Dev, OSD MPDA, Government of Meghalaya:
1. Given that the idea is to make everything inclusive, isn't there a benefit in opening up the data set to everybody who wants access? Therefore, why would the state choose a user name and password restriction.
Follow Up: Opening up the data would invite criticism, however shouldn't this be welcome?
 2. Secondly, in terms of micro level planning, zooming down to the village level, one village might have multiple irrigation projects, for example, how would you verify all three geo-spatial points at another level- let's say that the data comes in from the panchayat level, what checks do you have in place to verify that at a higher level?
 3. The highest resolution of data in terms of GPS point would be the village coordinates, is that right?

Mr. Hudda, responding said that the the data is quite sensitive and can be misused; if for example among two or three talukas, one does not have certain facilities, the media can focus on that and highlight it in a negative manner which would mean that the development efforts and gap analysis would be relegated to the side. The username and password has been given to the MLAs, block level, taluk level officers, and they are the representatives. The objective at the moment is to use the data for decision making and gap analysis, after some years this might be opened up for all. However, he agreed that transparency of data should be sought after.

A disclaimer has also been put up on the portal, stating that there might be certain inconsistencies within the data. If any discrepancy is found, one must connect to the district statistical officer so that the data can be rectified and/or updated. It is a huge task to update data on 18,000 villages and all district and taluk officers might not have the same competency.

Further, this programme does not work on data collection through projects, therefore the authenticity has to be ensured at the taluk level and the district officers' level. The data is not being verified at the State level

Geo tracking of all facilities is not available, village boundary coordinates have been used. The village unit is not too large in Gujarat, therefore the exact coordinates of the schools, PHCs is not captured.

Mr. Gaur added that this is not a grievance redressal software, it has been designed with the purpose to assist in the planning process and approval of schemes.

- VI. Mr. Ashutosh Salil (DC Chandrapur, Maharashtra) said that there is similar plan for Chandrapur, however on a smaller scale. He asked if there is a mid-term evaluation system which would allow the local governance to know where they stand and what has been achieved, i.e tracking progress against the backdrop of the goals set.

Mr. Hudda responded saying that a mid-term evaluation system does not exist in this application but is an idea that can be integrated.

Concluding, Mr. Gaur said that this is a tool that the North East can use to make planning process simpler and effective. The State of Gujarat can provide any technical assistance to the States that would ask for guidance.

DAY 2
Technical Session 2: Strengthening Implementation and Service Delivery (PART 1) Chaired by Mr. Omkar Singh, PCCF and Principal Secretary, Environment and Forest

Theme 1: Reaching the Furthest behind First through strengthened local governance

Speaker 1: N. Rajeev, Ex Sarpanch, Eraviperroor Grama Panchayat, Success Story of Local Self Governance (State of Kerala)

10 initiatives that were implemented in his tenure as sarpanch were sought to be discussed.

The total population of the panchayat stands at 25,200 with a gender ratio favorable to women. The literacy rate of the area stands at 97 per cent.

The gram panchayat, is the third level of government; after central and state. It's the local self-government. They have their own funds as well as the government allotments. The funds for the panchayat that are generated and collected within the panchayat excluding government allotment is given as follows:

Table 7: OWN FUND 2015-16		
S.No.	Head	Collection Amount
1	Property tax	21,57,045
2	Profession tax	12,78,788
3	Service tax	3,83,801
4	Licence fees	53,140
5	Market fees/Bus stand fees	550
6	Building permit fees	44,785
7	Birth/Death/Marriage Registration fees	26,381
8	Rent/Auction	1,66,478
9	Penalties and Fines	2,76,099
10	General Purpose Fund	63,98,455
11	Others(Notice fee, cost of form , late fee , relief fund, regularisation fee, extract fee etc	2,12,192

TOTAL	1,09,97,714
Total Demand	1,25,02,439
Total collection	1,09,97,714
Balance	15,04,725
Percentage of collection	87.90%

General Purpose Fund is given by the State to support the own fund. Further Salaries of the panchayat officials (17) is given from the own fund along with covering the administrative charges.

State level slab is fixed, and they have the discretion to fix the slab (property tax for instance, falls between 4-8 per cent per square metre). The Kerala government, according to the last budget, is reserving 29 per cent of the total allocation for the panchayat. The panchayat is given a part of this fund depending upon the population. Maintenance of assets from these funds.

Initiatives:

1. **e-governance:** Citizens can come to the front office and take their services from there alone. 60-70 per cent of the panchayat is covered by WiFi with six free WiFi hotspots. Blue boards shows the citizen starters i.e the services offered to citizens, agency responsible, the time during which it shall be provided, supporting documents required and fees. Record room keeps analog of all permanent records important for the Panchayat. Touch screen facility close to the front office for the citizen to see the progress of his file in the office.

Highlights:

Panchayat is the registering authority for marriage, birth and death. If the application is proper, it takes 20 mins to complete the process and issue certificate. IKM (Information Kerala Mission) has developed ten applications which are being used for transfer and delivery of services. E-banking is being used for giving salaries of the employees. Through e-governance we are able to provide 42 services to our citizens. On the basis of this e-governance they have received ISO certification in the year 2013-14, hope to upgrade it in the coming year. The records for marriage, birth certificate etc are digitised. Modern record room enables them to trace records within 3-5 mins. Internal audit system in place to maintain good quality service delivery, also looks into redressal mechanism if people raise concerns regarding the services offered to them.

2. **The village knowledge system** is to help children in competing with students from metropolitan towns. Also building a directory of the history, culture, and indigenous knowledge of the village. Facts, oral history saved for the future generation.
3. **‘Environmental gram sabha’:** Awareness campaigns in the village- waste management and other environmental issues.
4. **Waste management measures:** Distribution of biogas plant, recycling of plastic (Plastic waste management where shredded plastic is used for road tar), etc. In the last year, 2690 kgs of plastic collected out of which 2400kgs was used for road tar for a stretch of 4.9km of road in different wards. Some land directed towards the state highway project was wasted; converted the same into a children's park.

5. **Mini Water –Supply Schemes:** 14 drinking water projects launched during a span of five years in scheduled caste areas.
6. **Arogya Sabha:** Based on Health sector activities. Yoga classes conducted for five years wherein 1009 people in the panchayat completed 20 days of training in yoga. This also includes pain and palliative project and karate classes for girls. Further, the PHC received ISO certification.
7. **Jagratha Samithy:** Grievance redressal mechanism for women and children. Sits on the first Friday of every month. This year 229 complaints received where 221 were settled.
8. **Haritha Gramam:** Activities include learning-by-doing for school students, paddy cultivation, school eco-club. This has had an impact on the revival of fallow land, it has utilized modern cultivation methods such as polly house, rain shelter and grow bag.
9. **MGNREGA:** Under the scheme an attempt was made to rejuvenate a river, asset creation activities, information on water resources, banana cultivation is a unique convergent activities being undertaken in the panchayat where women groups can work on the land.

10. **ODF Panchayat**

- P2P: timely service delivery of 42 delivery, Panchayat to People, should begin in 6 months time.
- GIS Panchayat tracking sought as well.
- The Awards that have been received are mentioned in the presentation slides.

Speaker 2: Shyam Sunder Paliwal, Sarpanch, Piplantri Gram Panchayat, Rajasmand (State of Rajasthan)

Piplantri Village situated on adivasi land, with mining activities. Faces water issues, and yet the citizens understand government schemes. MNREGA has been utilised well, in getting water up till 10-15 feet from ground level. Women have been persevering to utilise government schemes better. Popular in news and social media as a village where the birth of a girl child is celebrated- villagers plant 111 trees along trenches when a girl-child is born, and a fixed deposit of 21,000 thousand rupees is made for 20 years (rupees 10,000 taken from the father of the child). 3 lakh trees planted using government schemes- mountains have been rejuvenated, water levels have improved and it invited foreigners as well.

The family signs an affidavit stating: “No-one in my family shall injure a plant; my new born girl child and the trees planted in her honour shall be nourished and looked after well; Will not stop my girl child in gaining education; I will not get her married before 18 years of age.” And this activity too, is merged with government schemes.

A team from Kerala has come up with a special documentary about the girls/women in Piplantri. Many such videos are floating on the internet.

50,000 bamboo plants are grown and utilized along with aloe vera, amla, etc for livelihoods, income, and self-dependence. The trees grown for these products are home to honey bees, because of which honey is harvested and sold in Piplantri. Women have formed groups and are utilizing government schemes in these ways.

Used government schemes as a way of gaining self-sustenance and self-dependency: Piplantri Model. Piplantri Model refers to girl, water, trees and pasture land.

The sarpanch added that the government schemes can and should be leveraged well in all villages, depending upon their situations to gain environmentally conscious self-sustenance.

Discussions and Questions

- I. Mr. Vikram Gaur added that Kerala panchayats are massive in size within a population of 25,000+ citizens compared to other states (Madhya Pradesh panchayats, for instance, have a populations ranging from only 1,000-2,000 citizens). Many governments keep the size of panchayats small for their political gains as well, which prevents them from being self-sustaining. Hence, from the point of view of service delivery, the size of the panchayat is of great importance. States should take cognizance of this.
- II. Mr. Vanlalngaihsaka (District Collector Mizoram) asked Mr. Rajeev how the shredded plastic is utilised. He further asked the cost of the machine used and the place of procurement.

Responding, Mr. Rajeev said that the machines are procured from the empaneled agencies from state government. At the time of installation it costed 2,10,000 rupees. The method that was adopted by the panchayat was that 8 per cent of 650 kgs of bitumen was taken for plastic (54kgs), and the roads are relatively resilient.

- III. Mr Goel congratulating both sarpanches for their work and achievements, remarked that one of the most difficult tasks for any government is to take the people along with its development. He further asked the two the conditions in which they achieved results and whether the same can be implemented at larger scales. Moreover, it was asked whether they would be willing to share their experience and processes with the panchayats in Assam.

Responding, Mr Shyam remarked that the citizens either don't have knowledge of these schemes, or don't have the confidence in those schemes. Those who are knowledgeable about the schemes should sit with citizens and prove the effectiveness of the schemes and disseminate the knowledge.

Mr Rajiv stressed on **people participation** as well. Quality of the system will depend on the level of participation of the citizens. Additionally, local self-governance can only work well if there is strong political will to decentralize power. 12 states are already replicating the initiatives that have received the PM Award.

Theme 2: Investing in Systems strengthening for improved service delivery

Speaker 1: Amit Premi (ICT Consultant), Arunachal Pradesh, Arun ePDS: ICTs and process re-engineering for an efficient Public Distribution System

The presentation concentrated on the initiative taken in 2008 by the state to reform the public distribution system. Public Distribution System (PDS) was a huge problem in 2008, still is. ePDS was a big step in that direction.

The District administration decided to invite educational institutions to analyze the PDS system and what they could do to improve it. Initiated first in the remote district 'Tera' in Arunachal Pradesh. The outcome of the study was an eye-opener; it optimized the existing process with the help of various stakeholders. In administration, with the advent of technology, there comes a time when the state must revisit and see the delivery process. This was a successful pilot which created a model for the North East. The government carried it forward.

Introduction:

Arun e-PDS is a leading initiative by the department of Food and Supply (Government of Arunachal Pradesh). It streamlines various processes through process reengineering and ICT which are very crucial parts.

The administrative system undertakes various processes which require to be changed and inculcated into the system. This is process reengineering. Further, ICT is only a tool to deliver that mechanism.

Arun ePDS involves interlinked and interdependent processes which included software solutions, technology and efficient implementation methodically. In 2012 this was integrated into the end-to-end computerization project under NFSA.

Initial achievements discussed:

- Beneficiary data has been digitized
- 11,000 Ghost ration cards eliminated.
- Devised a way of auto replenishment for the Fair Price Shops (FPS)
- Established a grievance redressal mechanism for FPS dealers, beneficiaries, etc (time based)

Citizens at very high altitudes (close to border) purely rely on rice as their staple food. Infrastructure is dismal. It was realised that these families are migrating down to urban headquarters. Hence the population here exploded. They were primarily situated along the border with Assam, and this migratory pattern caused ghost ration cards.

Principal Distribution Centres (Close to the borders) is where the government cannot reach due to poor connectivity. It rains 6-8 months in a year, and roads are ruined. At some places, rations are air lifted.

Service delivery model has to evolve over time.

Activities under end to end computerization:

Created a digital repository of PDS data like ration cards, beneficiaries, godowns, and also officers.

Automation of supply chain: From source to destination, we switched to smart cards (are still completing the process). So that each transactions are recorded and sent back.

Vision:

1. State is devoid of connectivity. No State Wide Area Network. Strong stress on infrastructure.
2. Push and pull model: The same process have been put in the district headquarters as well. As and when the hardware picks up network, it shall send the data.
3. Less cash system.

All states are not at par.

Speaker 2: Mr Anindya Kumar Bhattacharjee, Achieving total financial inclusion in West Tripura through e-ROR and Common Services Centres

e-ROR: Digitization of management of citizen data, from entry point to exit point. From birth till death. Everything is recorded in citizen management system.

Mandai block in Tripura chosen for digitization and financial inclusion; the latter to ensure no cash payment. The reason for choosing this particular block was the 1980 massacre which Tripura has overcome.

One family should have at least one bank account. In Mandai block, all households have bank accounts and all payments are made through bank accounts only.

There are no banks in rural areas, then how does one ensure for financial inclusion? They have come up with the ultra-small branch (SBI), so that the Common Service Centre (CSC) comes to the citizen, and not the other way round. Roadmap: 1178 gram panchayats are working on e-ROR along with 20 urban bodies. Working on integrating with Jan Dhan Yojana. Mobile banking enables the services to walk up to the citizens. MNREGA salaries are also going to bank accounts.

Speaker 3: HVL Zerzoenga, Joint Director (UD&PA), State of Mizoram

Urban development in Mizoram is doing well in terms of people's participation in waste management.

Many cities, even Aizwal, have an issue of solid waste management, but when compared to other cities Aizwal is better off because of efforts of government departments, public, and NGOs.

A strong association called YMA, Young Mizo Associations, does a tremendous job in sanitation. PPP as well for collection of garbage (every household has to contribute 20 rupees for collection of garbage). The city is ranked 35th in cleanliness among all the cities in the country, 9th among capitals. Cleanliness week every October since 1972. Littering and dumping is discouraged and relatively minimal.

Mizoram has enacted sanitation and solid waste management policy, 2011 and a task force was constituted for sanitizing cities and towns. A sanitation committee is also constituted in every council in local area and they engage in various waste management activities.

Every citizen has part in participative role. It is each to reach out for mass awareness as unlike other states, there is only a single dialect in Mizoram. YMA has branches in every city and town. Have done a herculean task in sensitizing and educating about waste management. A

contribution of 5 rupees is taken for this purpose from members. They reached out to schools and hospitals. Other NGOs have also done tremendous work in this area. The Church also takes part in this (95 per cent of the population are Christians).

Aizwal Municipal Corporation comprises 83 local councils which take active role in cleanliness. NGOs also form part of this and collect household waste, collect contribution and organize drives. Hence, they are the backbone of the cleanliness in the city. Dustbins places in all important places.

The government has employed another major initiative by mobilizing CSR for anti-littering.

In waste management, segregation of waste is crucial. The department is doing a good job in sensitizing households about the segregation of household waste. Households put their degradable and non-degradable waste separately.

Lessons are that community participation were key for our sanitation activities. There has been a drastic change in the sanitation levels of the city. Even NGOs, and the church can contribute to the cause. Even the tribe itself has a high acceptance of these kind of initiatives.

Concluding Remarks by Mr Omkar

Arunachal Pradesh is the biggest among north east states and the population is low. Most areas are inaccessible due to bad connectivity. Focus on connectivity, communication and infrastructure. The state shares a long boundary with Myanmar, Bhutan, and China.

Many government departments don't have connectivity and network, and they are encouraged to take up paper work. For any development, we need connectivity and communication.

Theme 3: Innovative implementation of Central/State sponsored schemes chaired by Mr. R.B. Thong, Development Commissioner Nagaland

Mr. R.B. Thong requested the speakers to discuss the concept, objective, implementation, the level of success of the programme, the challenges faced, suggestions as well as the replication model.

Speaker 1: Vijay Mantri, Executive Director Meghalaya Basin Development. Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme: Fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship

Innovative and beautiful programme conceptualized and implemented for the four years. Stressing on the spirit of entrepreneurship, which is the core of IBDLP (Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion).

Meghalaya refers to ‘abode of clouds’, beautiful state with abundance of natural resources like coal, lime, clay, etc, abundant water resources, rainfall, rich biodiversity, thick forests. However, despite these facts, half of the population is below poverty line as per the 2011 census.

Idea behind IBDLP: Harnessing natural resources to provide better livelihoods to the citizens.

Introduction:

Attempt to bring a paradigm shift in the ‘beneficiary’ approach, from looking at citizens not as beneficiaries but as ‘partners’ to the government. Beneficiaries connotes a hierarchy and passivity, but a development partner denotes equality, and being an active partner along with the government. In the beneficiary system, they are dependant, but in the partner system

Table 8: Difference between Beneficiary and Partner System	
Beneficiary system	Partner system
Hierarchy	Equality
Passive	Active
Dependant	Inter Dependant
Low Accountability	High Accountability
Supply driven	Demand driven
Subsidies	Knowledge

Attempt to convert ideas into enterprises. Upskill livelihood into an enterprise.

Convergence extremely important

IBDLP gains strength from knowledge communication: videos, documentaries, etc which help partners in understanding the benefits

Attempt to look at the entire value chain from production till consumption, and from potential till the realization of their dreams, hence, integrated approach towards various livelihood

Hence, the four pillars of IBDLP are: entrepreneurship development, natural resource management, governance,

Entrepreneurship

One Enterprise resource Facilitation Centre (EFC) in every block, and one at every district as well. Mostly demand driven. Tools of reaching out like field business advisors who interact with entrepreneurs, vendors, talk to entire villages about entrepreneurship and coming to EFCs.

Reached out to 1.2 lakh partners and have recently conducted a survey with IFAD. According to the results, 22 per cent of the 1,2 lakh partners have up scaled their enterprises. 9 different missions, of which entrepreneurship is the core concept: aquaculture, energy, horticulture, forestry mission, livestock, sericulture, tourism, etc.

Highlights of key initiatives:

Basin Development Unit (BDU) in every district chaired by District Magistrate. All line department officers/heads are members. In every C&RD (Community and Rural Development Block) as well. 1.29 people reached, out of which 52,000 partners have been trained in different sectors and various states, given nabs linkages. 40,000 partners have explored different livelihoods. Have been able to reach out to international organisations like IFAD, GEZ, World Bank for financial resources.

Advantage: multi sectoral framework. 4 major projects (human development project, IFAD livelihood project, access to markets project, community led ecosystem project, multi-purpose reservoir project) and many more in the pipeline.

December 4, 2015, Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha (in his Lok Sabha speech) mentioned EFCs in his speech and mentioned how it fosters a spirit of entrepreneurship and can be a model for replication

Speaker 2: Devika Sharma Chhetri, Director (Planning), HRDD, Sikkim. Dhara Vikas: Creating water security through spring-shed development

Project initiated in the year 2008, after understanding the problem of acute water shortage. [Referred to resource mapping during the various seasons].

Water resources/spring sources are revered, ensuring that there is no pollution around these. Main objective was to ensure water security and to break the cycle of abundance and scarcity, and enhance the hydrological contribution of the mountainous ecosystem as a water tower for the people. Reduces landslides and floods as well.

Various glaciers provide water to the lowland; whereas lakes, springs and streams form part of the mountainous perspective. Why Springs? The focus is on spring water. 80% of rural households in the north east region depend on springs for water security. Contamination is low because it is naturally filtered.

Changing precipitating patterns are a threat in the entire north east as it changes the recharge pattern. The focus often shifts to macro issues like glaciers and climate change which does not include these local issues. The science of aquifers/ spring waters was the genesis of the entire project. Project headed by IAS Sandip Tambe.

Vulnerability analysis. Looking at the spring sources in isolation. Along the process the focus shifts to macro level approach. Shortage is primarily in the western and southern districts.

Steep terrain, the runoff is very high. Therefore only 15% is what percolates. Barren slopes, forests, and land above villages, dried up lakes were chosen as potential areas for ground water recharge. Trial and Error method adopted. In 2015, the mapping happened.

Trenches created in catchment areas. Placements very important. Recharge areas mapped.

Cost of project was 13 lakh and the cost of water now per liter is 2 paise.

Monitoring of springs as well intermittently to observe recharge patterns during monsoon/lean season. Revival of lakes (Doling Lake, for instance, between 2008 and 2011). De-concretization of lakes to make it a recharge basin.

51 springs revived, 1 lake revived and four others converted into recharge basins. 1,035 million litres of annual ground water recharge with an investment of 260 lakh rupees in 6 years.

Benefits:

1. Recharged lakes, revived springs
2. Reforestation
3. Cadre of technical specialist
4. Village spring atlas (mapping)
5. Farming benefits
6. Improved sanitation across villages
7. Activities mapped
8. Village spring updated through GPS
9. Knowledge sharing (students, academics)

Mr. R.B. Thong (comments):

1. Revival of springs is very important
2. Irony that in the north east there is heavy rainfall but the water does not percolate but flows down to the rivers and creates floods
3. Rain water management is very important
4. Some taxes should be levied for water as only then will people be more responsible.

Speaker 3: Chinmak Chang, Entrepreneur, Nagaland. Good Practices of Government and Community Partnership

The presentation focused on the partnership between the community and the government rather than the work the government has been doing alone.

‘Weaving a Dream’

Story begins with 40 children dying in cluster of 3-4 villages (Burma border - 1 hour from Burma). Community decides that they cannot wait for the government anymore and that they have to design their own ways. They decided to have their own hospital with a focus on outreach. Outreach extremely important for any programme.

Food

NABARD at the time had a programme called TDF (Tribal Development Fund). 93,000 pits dug with the help of MNREGA and each pit was 3 feet* 3 feet. In twenty months, the oranges which were planted grew tremendously big.

2,000 acres are now developed under citrus. Intercropped with beans, ginger (700 tonnes this year from only two villages). The problem which emerges here is marketing. Airlifting a possible solution as connectivity and marketing is the biggest problem face by the entire

Northeast region. Government should subsidise airlifting, if possible. Zero energy storage is being promoted; the oranges can be kept for three months, and that would make their price increase by 40% (low cost technology). First year, we had the banana harvest, potatoes, cabbages, bee keeping, etc. Massive produce.

Education

Many central schemes are very straitjacketed and do not fit into the kind of social setup the community has. In Naga culture, we had *Murungs*, (Gurukul system), where the focus was on the life skills, but the school curriculum limits this education. In *Murungs*, anyone can walk and engage in that space. SSA was introduced but it wasn't compatible with the *Murung* system.

Dropouts were taught carpentry, knitting, reviving art, music, drama, our traditional bamboo flute. These are the dying arts. Gender mainstreaming in schools: girls were exposed to leadership opportunities. The students are very vulnerable to western influences, especially when they go to big towns.

Water

Water was an issue. Engaging with TATA trust in providing every family with a harvest structure of 700 litres. 87 completed, 600 more to go. Catchment treatment (similar to Sikkim system). Trained young people with the double pit latrine.

They are financially included and insured. (2003 families linked with the bank). Contrary to popular belief, that Nagas cannot repay the debts, all the debt of Rupees 7 crore was repaid.

Invariably, incomes in the village have increased. At this point, they were asked to pay for the health treatments, medicines, doctors, etc and they agreed. Ownership of resources creates greater responsibilities.

Infrastructure is extremely important. Mother clubs were formed which encouraged them to (expecting mother as well) come to Aanganwadi centres, help with young kids, help with cooking. With only 6 rupees per day we could achieve normal birth weights of new born babies.

Exposed them to herbal gardens and drip irrigations.

Lesson learnt: Incentives are very important as well. If you create awareness and it does not match with services, there is no point. If there is awareness about condoms, but they are not available, there is no point.

Engaging communities can be very rewarding and helpful. Lessons in partnership: When there is good work, government also helps. We tell the communities that the government too, is looking for partners. Let's join hands and work together.

Surgery camps are held. We had to airlift a girl for surgery.

Mr. R.B. Thong (comments):

1. My philosophy is that the government should outsource more activities to credible NGOs like his organization.

Speaker 4: Ashok Babu, Mission Director, National Health Mission. NRHM Initiatives: Improving access to healthcare through strategic incentives.

Will focus on incentives, their strategic role, etc on health care

3.1 crore population with 85% population living in rural areas. We have a diverse terrain- hills, island area, plains, etc.

Health care:

The question that arises is, that, if the services are in place and they are accessible, why do citizens need incentives? The government's goal in giving incentives is that

1. The family will be protected
2. There will be behavioral change
3. Indicators improve

Jannani Suraksha scheme (started from 2006-07) gives 1400 rupees to women who come for institutional delivery. Numbers for these are growing, meanwhile, MMR (maternal mortality rate) is also dropping.

Geographical barriers also prevent people from availing these services. In certain communities there is no demand for these services (tea garden workers do not come forward for anemia). There can be more such barriers.

Different Kinds of Incentives:

1. Monetary : pay them to come forth
2. Free services (drugs, diagnostic, delivery, etc) provided in a package. (Janani Shishu Yojana)
3. Subsidies: where transportation charges are provided

Incentives have to be **targeted** and the leakages need to be avoided. Further, these need to be carefully **monitored** otherwise the objectives are not met. **Timely** delivery of incentives must be met along with **uniformity** across communities. Finally, the incentives must be **cost effective** and therefore, the budget should be carefully planned.

Speaker 5: Presentation on Nagaland Rural Health Mission

In Nagaland, there are 11 districts and 16 different tribes speaking different dialects. Local aspirations and effectiveness of implementation was kept in mind and therefore representatives from the blocks were chosen keeping in mind different dialects spoken. Out of 74 blocks, 31 blocks are unbanked. One challenge is that of the lack of cash economy, although we have other resources.

NRLM was rolled out in the state in 2012 and the field implementation took a year. Community resource people came from Andhra Pradesh and they stayed in the villages for 45 days, speaking about SHGs (Self Help Groups). ‘

Have come up with a vision 2030 looking at various issues. The core problem noticed was that it is a limited cash economy especially in rural areas, because of which the quality of life, health, education and livelihood is low.

4 Objectives of the Vision:

1. Building community through village level organisations, SHGs and federations
2. Coverage
3. Youth
4. Building professionals in the state

Financial inclusion:

1. Have 180 lakh SHG savings
2. 77.6 lakh start up fund given to SHG through bank transfer
3. Revolving funds of 15,000 rupees to each SHG
4. 267.6 lakh as revolving funds and also other given for community fund investment
5. Community Investment Fund: Access of banks by community is challenging. The money is given to the community to access financial help.
6. 146 lakh credit linkage achieved so far.
7. 18,000 households are practising multi income generating activities.
8. SHG members spread the word about NRLM and SHG in other villages
9. Master bookkeepers, etc are all members

Although the budget claims to be demand driven but it is felt that government programme is allocation based. The Prime Minister has said that a special package for the north east has been approved but details of that are presently unknown. Unless there is a committed fund flow, the implementation of NRLM will take a hit. The UNDP country director spoke of integration: NRLM is actually. A very suitable programme which can actually come and work with community institutions. I think that NRLM will help in achieving the different goals for SDGs.

Questions and Discussion

- I. Reflecting on the Session, a delegate congratulated the presentations by Sikkim, Dhara Vikas and Mr Chinmak, Nagaland. That is the main focus. If the North East does not revive springs, it will be another Rajasthan. NITI Aayog could look at model guidelines on the lines of Dhara Vikas, Sikkim, which can be replicated as best practices in other states. Further, the delegate requested Mr. Chinmak to explain his motivation to help the community in helping itself.

Ms. Devika Sharma Chhetri responded by saying that a lot can be learnt from Dhara Vikas. There are lots of issues which could be flagged with NITI Aayog in the next session, regarding collaboratively working in the north east region. Request to Mr Gaur to compile this consultative process with other studies which have taken place. Need to jointly address this for a positive result.

Many initiatives like the Indian Mountain Initiative were taken up by the mountain states of India where collaborative workshops and studies are undertaken. Mountainous regions have special needs.

Mr Chinmak stated that Nagaland has been a conflict zone, so the government could not do much for long but there was a negative perception. Over the years the community has led the show. This was a challenge. There was a lot of lobbying with the government, as you can tell in the pictures one can tell that they take in a span of few years. Thankfully many government opened up to the idea of community partnership. For instance, regarding the community health centre, the details were governed by the community. Community runs the show. Even in Aanganwadi centre, menu is decided by the community. In education, SSA put their money. Funding directly even in agricultural support.

- II. Adding to the discussion, Mr. R.B. Thong said that like the SDGs, as well as the Assam's Vision document, Nagaland has also developed its Vision document. SDGs are universal

goals, however NITI Aayog, while talking about peculiarities of the states may call each State to do a SWOT analysis of the development process. This will reveal the actual peculiarities of the states. Adding, Mr. Thong put forth a grievance with NITI Aayog stating that earlier when the Planning Commission was in place, there was a deeper consultative process with various departments. Ever since NITI Aayog has come, only the Chief Minister makes representations. It was asked how the Chief Minister is expected to know everything.

Responding to Mr. Thong, Mr. Gaur said that the North East states must also to take effort and come up with proposals if they see an actionable plan. As stated in Chapter 12 of the 14th finance commission report, there is a visible need to look into the special requirements of north eastern states. States could use that too, to write and propose a collective plan for action. NITI Aayog is proposing recommendations; however, states could push for recommendations as well, if based on reports.

**Technical Session 3: Monitoring the Progress towards the
SDGs moderated by Mr. Anurag Goel, IAS (retd), Senior
Advisor to UNDP**

Speaker 1: James Mathew, Director, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

A brief background on the SDGs: The SDGs are sustainable development goals adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 25th 2015. The first such initiative in the global community was taken in 2000 with the Millennium Development Goals by the United Nations. That programme ended in 2015; to continue that momentum generated by the MDGs, the world leaders had discussions and negotiations. Resulting from this process, came a set of 17 goals with 169 targets which were adopted by the UN last year.

India is also a signatory of this agreement. These 17 goals are divided into five categories.

1. People-The first category is people-centric (Goals 1 to 6) and can be called the social development goals.
2. Planet- these are the goals-12, 13, 15 which relate to environment, climate and sustainable consumption of the eco-systems.
3. Prosperity- these are the economic goals (Goals 7-11)
4. Peace- goal for governance in order to foster peace (Goal 16)
5. Partnership- Goal 17, this is also called the means of implementation

Each goal carries with it a set of indicators which include both ends and the means to achieve those ends/ implementation.

India and the SDGs

India has been on the path of sustainable development even before the SDGs were formulated and thus many of the country's development goals and schemes are mirrored in the SDGs and its subsequent targets. Further, the Government has been pursuing the path of *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas*.

Indicators and Monitoring

Data is an observation. When one maps the aggregates, describes and synthesizes the data that is described as 'statistics'. 'Indicator' is a statistical term which corresponds to the summarized information using ratios. Therefore when one speaks of IMR, it is an indicator.

A framework then, is a combination of indicators. Therefore a monitoring framework is a set of indicators to monitor the SDGs. There are three levels to this monitoring framework:

1. Global Level
2. Regional (Asia-Pacific) Level
3. National Level

For the Global Indicator Framework Development, a body called the *Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators* (IAEG-SDG) was constituted by the UN Statistical Commission. This body consists of 28 member countries who are working on the development of indicators at a global level for the monitoring framework. India is part of the group represented by MoSPI. They have developed a set of 245 indicators in the last meeting which was held in November. The list of indicators has been sent to UN Statistical Commission for consideration in its 48th Session in March 2017.

At the national level, NITI Aayog has been given the responsibility of the nodal agency for implementation and monitoring the national indicator framework and the SDGs in India. NITI Aayog has prepared one mapping of the SDGs, aligning the centrally sponsored schemes with each of the SDG Goals and targets. They have also allotted one nodal ministry for each goal, these ministries are expected to coordinate with the other ministries of that particular goal. Through such a process, a monitoring and an implementation plan is to be developed.

MoSPI had organized a National level Workshop on SDG indicator framework in September 2016. The Central Ministries and State Governments participated in the Workshop. Subsequently, MoSPI has also communicated to the ministries to develop the indicators. Along with this process, a number of meetings are being conducted by certain ministries, however some of them have not initiated this project.

There is a hope that the National Draft indicator list will be prepared by January or early February. This will be adopted by subsequent consultation with NITI Aayog. There might be a problem with some of the targets, where data is not available.

State governments have been requested to go ahead with their own indicator development. A tentative list of indicators was circulated among them which can help guide the development of indicators in states specific to their unique scenario. States will have different priorities with the SDGs as well.

Challenges

The challenge that MoSPI is facing is the large number of indicators where at the global level there are already 245 indicators which might be equally large at the national level, if not more. One of the principles behind SDG is *leaving no one behind*, which means that data should be available at the lowest possible level. This is a real challenge because our present National Sample Surveys are not able to produce data below state level. Therefore, lower disaggregation is a real challenge.

Mr. Anurag Goel added, stating that whatever is not measured and monitored does not get done.

Speaker 2: Melvil Pereira, Director, North-Eastern Social Research Centre and Ms. Enakshi Ganguly, North-Eastern Social Research Centre

The North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC) presented what they called their 'single point agenda' which introduced the budget for children which has not been taken up by any of the states. In the context of the 14th Finance commission's recommendation on fiscal devolution, it becomes pertinent that states develop tools to monitor their own budgets. The same methodology can be used to develop budgets for disability, tribes or any other.

Budget for Children: A short History

Budget for Children (BfC) is not a separate budget. It is an attempt to disaggregate from all the allocations made, those specially made for children.

The BfC helps monitor one's own work- if states are measuring up to the standards that they have put in place. Further it helps one to turn policy recommendations into definitive outcomes. An example is the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) that is being implemented in the states.

This scheme came out by the monitoring exercise (of their budget) undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development where it was found that it was not putting in enough effort. In the 11st five year plan, that was turned into the ICPS.

There are certain international commitments as well as requirements. The standards laid down by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UCRC) have to be upheld. There is also the General Comment 19. The General Comment is an explanatory note which explains a certain article. The General Comment 19 explains why budgeting for children and financing for children is imperative for states along with how it should be done. It is an essential document which acts as a guideline for states in their process of budgeting for children.

Budget for Children (BfC) work must be seen in the context of State's obligation to fulfil rights through the provision of adequate and appropriate financial resources. Without putting in financial resources into the practices undertaken by the States, the outcomes that the states want will never be achieved.

While the HAQ centre for Child Rights started child budgeting, not only in India but also globally in 2008, once the Ministry of Women and Child accepted it, it is no longer an international definition, but a definition that the Ministry adopted.

“The total magnitude of child specific budget outlays, i.e. the total magnitude of budget outlays on child specific programmes/schemes, is what we refer to as the ‘Child Budget’. Thus, ‘Child Budget’ is not a separate budget, but a part of the usual government budget... ‘Child Budgeting’ has emerged as an analytical tool for assessing the priority accorded to children in public spending in the country.”

- Ministry of Women and Child Development (Source:
<http://icds-wcd.nic.in/aro708/English/Chapter-7.pdf>)

It has been urged that the states should also adopt similar definitions.

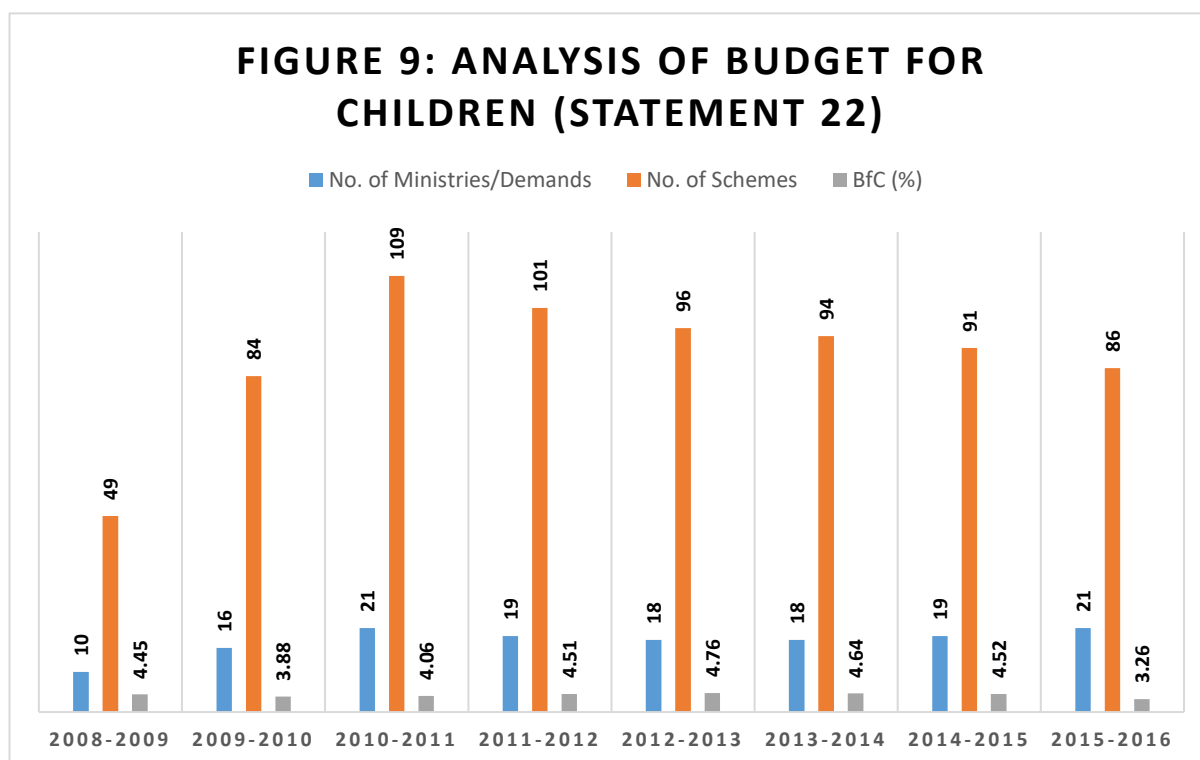
The work on child budgeting in India started in 2000, at HAQ centre for Child Rights. In 2003, the Government of India introduced child budgeting for the first time in the union budget using the same methodology that was proposed. Since then it has been adopted in the following documents:

1. National Plan of Action for Children 2005
2. The National Policy for Children 2013
3. The Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan Documents
4. Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
5. Annual Reports of the MWCD

The 11th and the 12th five year plans have spent considerable space in the chapters explaining child budgeting. In the 2008-09 budget the finance minister (P. Chidambaram) presented the expenditure budget 22 which is a separate budget statement for children. At this point of time, only the National Budget has a separate statement for children.

In the context of fiscal devolution, introducing a separate statement for children in the budgets of the states becomes an interesting way to measure the progress made in that sector. The Statement 22 is a method of mainstreaming children's issues into different ministries and departments (even the Ministry of Telecommunication pulled out a programme and stated that they are working for children as well).

The graph below shows the number of ministries and number of schemes that have been included along with the percentage of national union budget that has been given for children.



The Methodology

It is not a separate budget document. To calculate, the following is taken into consideration:

1. Detailed demands for grants (DDGs)
2. The budget estimates
3. The revised estimates
4. Actual expenditure

The programmes are then disaggregated from the different ministerial DDGs - divided into four sectors specific to children, viz. health, development, education and protection. The programmes/ schemes are The total budget for children (BfC) is the sum total of the allocations made towards above mentioned four sectors.

The union budget has never gone beyond 5 per cent for BfC. In 2015-16, after the 14th finance commission, it has reduced by 29 per cent.

Budget for Children and the North East

The Child Rights index developed by HAQ shows an assessment of all the states under different indicators along with a ranking from 1 to 29. The matter of concern for the states in the North East is that they are all mostly ranked at the bottom for all the indicators given. (see: presentation slide 21).

Through these indicators, weaknesses can be assessed for budget allocation and programme implementation for children. Similarly, district level information was presented to target specific indicators as per district scores.

Further, NESRC attempted to chart the share of BfC in three of the States in the North East, viz. Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland. The data has been acquired from DDGs (Detailed demands for Grants) The following table shows the share for children in the total state budget.

Table 9: Share of BfC in Different States (percent)			
YEAR	Assam BfC	Meghalaya BfC	Nagaland BfC
2014-15	5.76	9.51	11.98
2015-16	9.71	4.69	13.34
2016-17	10.07	4.25	NA

Assam has seen a huge jump between the years 2014-15 and 2016-17, in Meghalaya there has been a decrease. Nagaland has been doing well, however the analysis is not available for the year 2016-17.

NESRC has also divided the budget allocation for children per sector which is available in their presentation. These sectors are: Health, Education, Development and Protection which has then been compared to the overall state budget and then an allocation for children. An example for the state of Meghalaya is given below:

Table 10: Sectoral Share in the state budget and within BfC(in %)								
Year	State Budget				Budget for Children (BfC)			
	Health	Development	Education	Protection	Health	Development	Education	Protection
2014 - 15	0.14	1.73	7.57	0.07	1.44	18.16	79.66	0.74
2015 - 16	0.14	0.41	4.13	0.01	3.04	8.69	88.10	0.18
2016 - 17	0.11	0.68	3.43	0.02	2.67	15.99	80.84	0.50
Average	0.11	0.68	3.43	0.02	2.67	15.99	80.84	0.50

If compared to the HAQ Child Rights Index where the North East scored very low, one can see that the crime index (incidences, against children and committed by children) seems to be more in the North East states and therefore the protection sector needs a lot of attention, which here one can see has a low allocation. Therefore, the states should compare the HAQ index with their sectoral allocation of funds for children.

One of the best ways to track BfC in the states is through the introduction of a separate Statement for Children along the lines of Statement 22 in the National / Union Budget.

Speaker 3: Ashutosh Salil, District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra

Chandrapur is a tribal district in the eastern most part of Maharashtra. While being a very rich district in terms of resources having coal, limestone, the district faces low HDI. The per capita is not reflected in terms of social indicators.

This micro-planning exercise covered three blocks. The idea came about because planning is hardly ever formulated at the gram panchayat level, it stops at the district level. There is no control as to how money allocated is spent as a DC. Gram panchayats usually only spend the money once they have received it without any prior planning, this is ironic to Maharashtra where it is compulsory for planning to be a bottom-up approach. In practice, the planning remains to be top-down.

This model is different from what was seen in Gujarat (Village Atlas) where they have captured all the existing data, here a detailed household survey has been conducted. Data often bogs down the planners which leads to gaps in implementation at the lower levels. It is necessary to get the needs of all the areas together for efficient allocation. Without a tool to do the same, this would not have been possible.

Data Collection and Technology-Driven

This method was different because:

1. Bottom Up Approach: An extensive survey of all the gram panchayats was conducted
2. Technology paired with traditional Methods: Tab based questionnaire, GIS-GPS mapping, PRA tools
3. Resource pool of central and state government schemes
4. Multipronged approach to development plan: focus on Household, Village, Area development and perspective planning.
5. Potential human resource for development activities: around 750 youth from local villages trained for over 12-15 days

Survey Type	Parameters
Village Survey	Infrastructure, Land, Agriculture, Connectivity, Health, Communication facilities
Anganwadi Survey	Human Resources, Infrastructure, Facilities, Beneficiary details
School Survey	RTE Act compliance, Infrastructure details
Health Facility Survey	Availability of services, Infrastructure, Facilities, Coverage of beneficiaries
Households Survey	Demographic details, Occupation, Education, Economical status, Availability of State schemes, Agriculture, Health, Migration details.

The given are 5 broad parameters that were used to conduct the survey. All this data was collected individually.

The survey was largely conducted by the Tata Trust team, the government played the role of only the facilitator. The entire exercise was completed in 2 months spanning close to 48,000 households. The survey was offline and was later synced in.

In Chandrapur, the goal was to make village development plans which was further made mandatory by the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. Therefore the goal was

to make realistic village development plans which would reflect the needs and local requirements of the people. For the three blocks in which this exercise was carried out, the gram panchayat has incorporated the village development plan.

4 step process that was followed:

1. Training volunteers
2. Data collection
3. Social and Resource Mapping
4. Verification by gram panchayat

A dashboard has now been created as a result of this process through which monitoring has been made possible.

While data often stops at the state level, in these three blocks it has managed to reach every single individual. Therefore one can know how many people in a particular village do not have a ration card or aadhar card. It makes targeting of schemes easier as well as effective. Moreover, village development plans are auto-generated.

Impact of Micro-level planning exercise in Chandrapur, Maharashtra

1. Village development plans sent to each Gram Panchayat for adoption under the 14th Finance Commission Report.
2. Block Development Officer of Mul is implementing 60 per cent of the VDPs in the block.
3. Unskilled components of the labour force are coming to light
4. Sub divisional officer of Mul has used this data to understand where she should conduct the Aadhar camps and Ration Card camps.
5. Forest Department used the dashboard to target LPG penetration to individuals, villages with low LPG penetration
6. Allocation of resources is data driven and thus more meaningful
7. Electricity department has identified households with no electricity based on the data presented from micro-planning exercise.
8. Idea of the on-ground issues in villages which has helped plan field visits

The micro-planning is still a work in progress and requires a constant updation of data to move ahead, there has to be a mechanism that the government supports. Further, this has to become a two way interaction as of now a dashboard which is unidirectional exists. Lastly, ideally the entire district should be on the same platform which it isn't at the moment.

This micro-planning exercise has helped put resources together in a more efficient manner and has led to better implantation of schemes

The Website: <https://chandrapur.socialcops.com/>

Speaker 4: Vinesh Singhvi, Officer on Special Duty, Plan, Government of Rajasthan

Bhramashah is a public delivery system which is a single platform to deliver all services. This has captured the data of all the residents after authentication, filtration and accounting of entitlements (Janani Suraksha, NREGA etc) of the families.

There were 2 objectives of the scheme when launched in 2008 which were financial inclusion and women empowerment. The women in Rajasthan are very involved in the economic activities especially in agriculture, animal husbandry, handicrafts and handloom manufacturing, however there existed no financial liberty for women due to the patriarchal framework of the society. Today, the scheme includes the following components

1. Financial Inclusion
2. Women Empowerment
3. Direct Benefit Transfer
4. State Resident Data Hub
5. Family Identification (head of the family is a woman, has to have a bank account)
6. Resident Identity Card

Enrolment is catered through an online facility at either the permanent e-mitra kiosks or through the website. One can upload all kinds of documents which allow easy access through Bhramashah number. Further, there is a quality control mechanism which involves verification at various levels to avoid discrepancy.

The Bhramashah data hub aims at building a centralised, clean, authentic, de-duplicated and up to date master database for state specific residents whose basic needs derive from the aadhar enrolment data. This data ensures one family, one identity along with one resident and one identity.

Table 12: KEY OUTCOMES

Single unique bilingual data set of all the residents of the State	Two level verification mechanism for ensuring quality of data and also to check inclusion of non-citizens	Programme for Financial Inclusion	Points of service at all panchayats in rural areas and wards in urban areas being ensured	Women Empowerment
All the demographic and social parameters included to work out entitlements	Verification by senior government functionaries and gram/ward sabhas	Mandatory bank account linkage with every resident profile (i.e. Card issued).	For cash and non cash service delivery	The bank account has to be necessarily in name of lady of the house, and operated only by the women, so that the benefits transferred in cash are put to good use of the family.
Provision of leveraging of this single data set by all the departmental application softwares/portal	Accountability of verifiers is being ensured using digital signatures	New bank account is opened, if family is not having an existing bank account		

BDH repository as single source of truth for all resident data in the state. the hub allows it to take only 15 days to roll out the data

The Bhamashah number and Aadhar number have been integrated with the rupay card and seeding of all data from different departments has been captured in the Bhamashah data. This is further verified by the block level officers.

TABLE 13: BHAMASHAH SERVICE DETAILS			
S.No.	Particulars	Detail	Status
1.	Enrolment	Families	> 1.32 crore
		Individuals	>4.73 crores
2.	Points of Service	E-Mitra Kiosks	>40000
		BC's & E-Mitra with micro-ATM	>25000
3.	Health institutions with I.T. enabled receptions.	No. of Health institutions	1117
5.	DBT Status	Transaction Cash & Non-Cash Cash (Amount)	>13.81 crore >Rs.5179 crores
		Non-cash(e-PDS) (Trans.)	> 6.46 crores

Speaker 5: Joydeep Baruah, Associate Professor, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development

In monitoring and evaluation, processes come in handy and this is made possible to study through the measurement of subjective wellbeing. Therefore, it must be understood that unless the processes are right, one cannot get the output that one wants. This measurement allows to measure processes and linking them to outcomes.

The idea of the subjective well-being is inspired by the Bhutan model, life happiness, however it is completely different and posed as a challenge to fit in to the HDR.

Subjective wellbeing is evaluated within the capability framework where freedom is the central idea of capability. Freedom itself can be divided into two components, the first being (culmination outcome) opportunity and the second (comprehensive outcome) being process. Those processes which go against the operation of freedom, thus must be limited. Therefore subjective wellbeing is not about happiness but how people value different processes.

There are 8 domains/dimensions to the Subjective well-being measurement:

1. Psychological
2. Health

3. Education
4. Cultural
5. Community
6. Governance
7. Ecology
8. Living Standards

These domains are further split up and divided into a hierarchical arrangement of domains, indicators, sub-indicators and questions/variables.

The Methodology

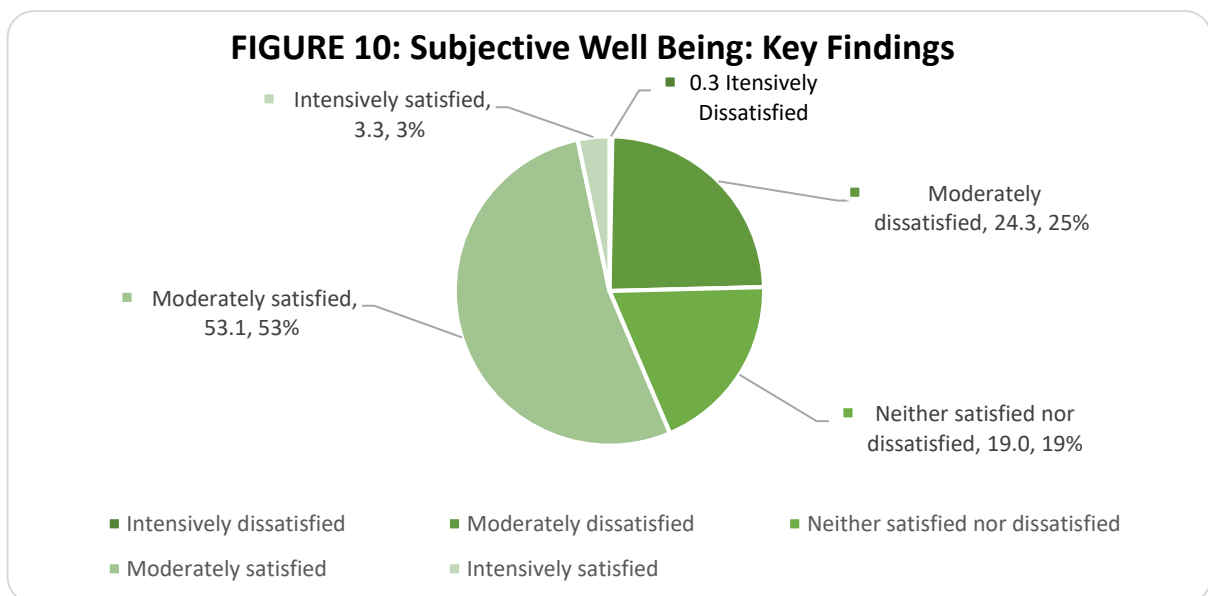
Qualification of Indicators – indicators must be related to process aspects of functioning, they cannot be at the household level and thus must be directly at the individual level, the questions asked are non-conditional i.e no ‘ifs’, no ‘buts’, further non-missing value can be presented as it would create issues in the evaluation.

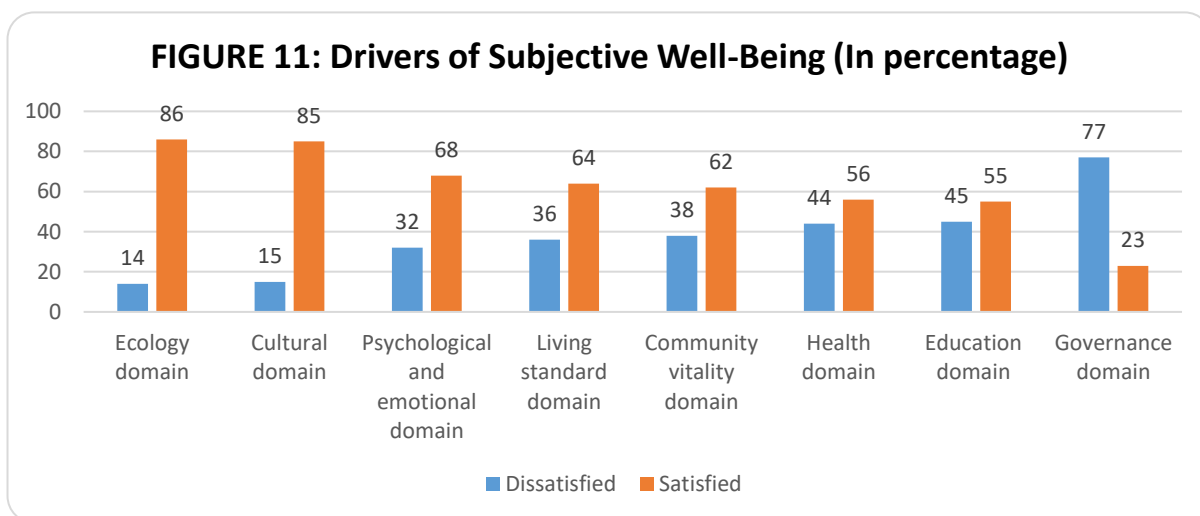
The Basic Framework adopted the Alkire-Foster method of ‘Dual Sufficiency Cut off’. This implies that first those who have the sufficiency condition are identified and aggregated, after which another cut off is applied to the total percentage. In aggregation the 2/3rd rule is applied both across the domain horizontally as well as vertically. Then equal weight to indicators and domains are given.

The process of aggregation is further explain as follows: The number ‘1’ indicates satisfaction and ‘0’ indicates dissatisfaction. The aggregation is evaluated hierarchically. First, the sub-indicator sufficiency indicator is identified. For overall sufficiency 2/3 (0.67) rule is applied hierarchically up to domain.

Key Findings

A sample of 40,000 households was collected which is the biggest sample collected in the state (Assam) so far. It provides the different amount of disaggregation which isn’t available from other sources. Certain findings are given below, these can be used for policy decisions.





Discussion and Questions

- I. A question was raised to MoSPI asking what the state governments should do.

The implementation part of the SDGs is looked after NITI Aayog. The real result of the SDGs has to come from the states as all the schemes have to be implemented by the states. Therefore each state is expected to develop its own strategy consisted with the sustainable development goals that have been adopted. Each target has to be assessed by the states and if applicable, they must be implemented. Accordingly the measurement framework has to be formulated.

Mapping of the indicators is still under process.

- II. The State of Nagaland pointed to the fact that there is a recognition of the importance of data for monitoring, for benchmarking as well as for construction of indices. However, to have reliable and authentic data, state statistical systems have to be built i.e. capacities have to be built. Further, to monitor the SDGs, the indicators have to be formulated. The question was then put to MoSPI regarding a programme to build the capacity on the methodologies for measuring the SDGs.

There is a scheme called ISSP which is for the strengthening of the state statistical system, funded by World Bank, operated by MoSPI for the last five years. That should address the capacity development of state governments. This is not particularly for the SDGs. There will be other capacity development programmes based on the resources available for implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

- III. Referring to Rajasthan's Bhrumashah scheme which has an objective of women empowerment, The state of Nagaland was asked whether sufficient steps were being taken for women representation in gram panchayats along with whether the women representatives were effective or not.

Rajasthan has 50 per cent of reservation for women in all levels of the panchayati raj system. Effective from last year, an intervention was made that all those standing for the elections in the panchayat must have passed 8th grade. Therefore the women in the panchayat are holding regular activities.

- IV. A question raised regarding the partnership between the administration and the social corps platform for the micro planning in Chandrapur. While Tata Trust was involved in carrying out the mapping out process, it was asked whether there was any say or intervention from the side of the administrative set-up with respect to design.

It was in consultation with the district administration at every step. It is still a work in progress and they're still in consultation to make it more workable as it requires a system for a feedback loop. The current challenge is that data must be updated constantly as well as for the government to figure out a way ho to expand it as it requires a lot of volunteers and a lot of data collection.

Technical Session 4:Voices of the Youth: Shaping the Future, moderated by Mr. Ashutosh Salil, DC Chandrapur

Speaker 1: Kanika Sinha, Lead Associate, Commutiny: The Youth Collective and Pravah

The demographic dividend that the country is witnessing presents a huge opportunity. Further, the National Youth policy has recognized the potential the youth presents and at the same been critical as youth while it is a huge constituency in itself is not a homogenous group. The youth cuts across many of the issues that have been discussed in the consultation and what is represented here; yet the question of the youth never comes up.

There are various lenses to view youth through:

1. 'Economistic' Lens: Huge population and huge potential to contribute in the growth of India
2. 'Problem Solver' Lens: clients of development
3. 'Youth for Development' Lens: need to be the torchbearers to bring about social change
4. 'Youth Centric Development' Lens: investing in young people for their development which would in turn have an effect on other sectors

Pravah and Commutiny are two organizations which have been working for over 2 decades to build youth leadership for social change in Delhi as well as across the country through their partners. They look at creating and strengthening the ecosystem of youth development, making youth work visible, advocating for it and amplifying the voices of the youth. The idea is to work with young people right through their life cycle and not an isolated intervention at one point of their development.

While there is a belief that systemic change can emerge at the level of individuals, there needs to be an impact at scale as well. What has been achieved till date has been done through the creation of the "5th space". Friends, leisure, career and family are legitimized spaces by society for the youth to spend time in. however, 5th spaces which are in the margins are those created by the youth and led by the youth for self-expression and strengthening their leadership. The initiative taken is to expand these spaces and also bring them to the centre which would in turn, nourish the other spaces. The idea thus, is to bring in psycho-social change.

The work of Pravah and Commutiny in the line of the SDGs

1. Youth Addas- run with 500 young people where discussions and understanding on the SDGs take place. Here the question of SDGs is posed from self to society and how the youth can bring about a change or participate in the transformative agenda.
2. Changelooms Learning and Leadership Journey: An inside out leadership journey that encourages, recognizes, and supports young leaders to achieve their potential to lead social change initiatives across different issues.
3. Swa-Ankur: An approach which incentivizes and empowers rural youth to take up their own community development through the creation of micro-enterprises.
4. Abilities Beyond Skills (ABS): Life competency curriculum for sustainable employment which is focused on enabling potential employees become efficient, effective, happy and desired employees, thus developing as holistic leaders

Recommendations

1. Self to Society', experiential processes with young people to build awareness about SDGs through 'Youth Adda' like capsules.
2. Creating 5th Spaces for young people to promote 'life long learning', by building capacities of facilitators and organisations that work with youth to engage them more effectively
3. Making the SDGs more 'local' – While SDGs seem like a global agenda, it is critical to connect them to local concerns. For e.g., Through initiatives like Samvidhan Live – the Jagrik Project, and UnManifesto, we may be strengthening Goal 16, but the issue of participation in governance, or becoming more constitutionally aware, is a 'local' act, and seems more relevant and achievable.
4. Support young people to lead their actions towards achieving SDGs through learning and leadership initiatives like Changelooms programme for action projects and start ups
5. Collectivize youth leaders, creating regional and national platforms to strengthen cross border relationships and have a cascading effect on youth development

Speaker 2: Lezo Pusture, Director, Youth Net

There are two kinds of stories from Nagaland. On one hand, a lot of young people busted a food scam where the food meant for the poor was being repackaged and sold for a profit, a girl who fought cancer started her own pani puri shop, there are entrepreneurs, young officers in the system who are trying to make a change. On the other hand, there are recent issues across the border especially with Manipur, young frustrated youth who are fighting.

According to the 2011 census, 50 per cent of young people in Nagaland are below the age of 29. Unemployment is a large issue that is coming up. The thinking pattern across the North East states is that the only good jobs are in the government. At the moment, there are 2 lakh unemployed and in the next 10 years, there will be 7 lakh unemployed in Nagaland alone. Drop outs increase every year.

YouthNet is a non-profit that focuses on utilizing the energy of the youth with something positive, to be able to channelize them and to encourage them to do things which are different. The organization which was started by a group of lawyers was started with RTI because the initial focus was on fighting corruption. The focus has now shifted to employment which led to the creation of a job centre. There is also a training centre where work on professional skill development takes place.

YouthNet has also been working with close coordination with the government with their programme called 'Impact 5000 by 18'. This is a campaign to encourage entrepreneurship and provide job opportunities for 5000 Naga Youths by 2018 so far around 3700 youths have been impacted.

The idea of entrepreneurship is to be able to create and encourage creative jobs. The market reveals that the future is only creative jobs. The future is 'creative jobs' (seen through Facebook, Uber, Ola etc.). Further, the North East people are creative and need to be oriented towards jobs other than those that are traditional.

The organization started with career awareness programmes in schools. They further work with college students where they are given some money (20,000 rupees each) to work during the Hornbill festival. This allows them to see whether they want to work in the field of business or not. The college intervention allows to connect the youth with those in the job market and

thus facilitate communication and network formation. YouthNet also has programmes for start-ups and new businesses; there is a move towards glamorizing entrepreneurship as well as creating entrepreneur role models because there aren't many in the North East.

Rajiv Chandrashekar, a member of parliament from Karnataka has been the chief mentor to YouthNet and working with a lot of entrepreneurs.

Raiwas Chhetri from Sikkim started NE TAXI; he's 22 years old and has 450 taxis registered under him. Uber and Ola are talking to him to buy his many but he isn't interested. He is an example of what young people can do with the rights mentor and access to finance, access to resources.

Further, YouthNet also works with the "master-class". They have tied up with an organization called IEF based in Bombay to conduct such a masterclass.

The Young Leaders connect is an annual conclave. The theme for Young Leaders Connect for 2016 was entrepreneurship to execute a forum where all young leaders could be brought together. Entrepreneurship is very important in today's age and skills need to be developed. There are a lot of programmes in India for skill, however YouthNet requested for a special programme for entrepreneurship centred in the North East. Therefore, an ecosystem for entrepreneurs is also required- power, transport, access to loans. Further, YuthNet is in conversation with the Ministry of Skill Development for a fellowship in entrepreneurship to help build this ecosystem.

Speaker 3: Sonal Roshan, Operations Manager, WAY Foundation

The organization's called 'We Are Young (WAY) Foundation' is youth led and based in Guwahati. WAY Foundation has been working with young people for three years: actively engaged with 8000 youngsters. The organisation, through various activities and programmes has attempted to instil active citizenship and amplify the youth's voice.

WAY Foundation is a participant of the Global Action Project 2015, a coalition of 2200 organizations all over the world which raise awareness on issues such as inequality and climate changes. These are also covered in SDGs. WAY Foundation has raised awareness throughout Guwahati in various colleges on these issues.

One cannot expect every youth to be socially responsible keeping in mind the context and scenario that the youth comes from. One needs to understand the youth needs happiness. For a happy life, one must look beyond seeking job security. The youth tends to get frustrated without pursuing that which provides them happiness.

WAY foundation, is a group of life skill trainers, which aims to make people understand themselves better as well as ways to use their qualities at the optimum level. The belief held is that life skill can bring in transformations in people.

Life skill training must be instilled into the kids at a young age and therefore WAY Foundation has designed interventions at grade 6 where instead of a mere understanding of the skills, a holistic realization is achieved. The group has started programmes in government schools.

The design that is used is called "BOAS":

1. Brainstorming
2. Opting
3. Acting
4. Sharing

Through this model, children are engaged in different social action projects. These reflections allow them to understand and reflect on their own capabilities. This is the process followed to teach life skills to children and their subsequent implementation.

Being ground level workers, certain challenges and restrictions are faced at the practical level. Referring to Mr. Anurag Goel's presentation, it was reiterated that a restructuring of the whole system is required yet difficult. There is also a need to restructure one's behaviour as it is easier to mould children but harder to achieve the same results with the youth as well as adults.

Further, life skill training must be institutionalized to achieve results at a larger level. This also requires assistance from the government in aligning school curriculum with life skill training.

Speaker 4: Jenpu Rongmei, Chief Functionary, CAN Youth

“My family used to sell alcohol; my community survived through the sale of alcohol. Like all children, I had dreams to go to big schools and sit with my father. My father was an alcoholic, my mother was a victim of domestic violence. My brothers and I dropped out of school. When I wanted to complete matriculation, I had no one to help me. To complete it, I had to sell perfume door to door. My brother started taking drugs and he died because of it.”

The conversation has been on the future without paying heed to the present. The presenter felt that the present is where people are dying and nobody is listening to the problems to understand them but only to reply to them. Moreover, it was also felt that the leaders of today are detached from the issues of the people they lead, they are leaders of the crowd. There is no leader to sit with us who can understand our problems.

Youth empowerment must be seen through the lens of the dropouts and the social reasons for which this phenomena is at large. Skill development must not forget about the individuals and the lives sought to be developed. Therefore schemes must be more people-centric.

CAN Youth is an organization that was born to work with the drop outs. The main focus is not with skill but with an engagement with different schemes so that there is a realization that the dropouts have capabilities and dreams which are the same as other youths. Through such a process, skills are identified and they are sent for training.

Often skill training programmes fail because there is no understanding of the individual contexts of the young drop outs. To tackle this, youth support groups were established in four villages in Dimapur comprising of 15 dropouts from each village. These dropouts are involved in income generating activities and are trained in different livelihoods. They are further provided with seed money which is mobilized from different sources.

What has been felt by the organization is that there has been a large and concentrated focus on infrastructure development and the space for youth has been lost in the process. A space for organizations such as their own has been requested which would further facilitate a space for the youth.

Speaker 5: Deepjyoti Sonu Brahma, Director, Farm2Food

Farm2Food is based out of Assam. Assam has a 3.1 crore population and 89 per cent of that population resides in the rural areas. 20 per cent of the age group 10-19 and 19 per cent of the age group 15-24 is in Assam. The literacy rate in the rural areas of Assam stands at 69 per cent, however, Assam also has one of the highest rural unemployment rate. It is also estimated that by 2022, Assam will have 17 million working age young people asking for employment but only

around 2.6 million would be able to achieve the same. Moreover, Assam has 50,000 schools and around 750 recognized institutes of higher education.

Assam has one of the most fertile lands. British officers had once said that Assam is so fertile that it is perennially on a high dose of Opium as it would allow anything to grow. Despite such fertility, Assam produces only 1.5 per cent of food grain.

Farm2 Food foundation builds farm entrepreneurs among young people for a peaceful and prosperous region. The foundation primarily works with young people in schools and colleges as well as established farmers.

One of the programmes is called 'Farm-Preneur'. The three important components are:

1. The school garden: Encouraging young people to grow their own food including local herbs, vegetables. Farming is done organically.
2. The nutrition garden: Provides a space for school children in rural spaces for activity based learning. The activity based learning compliments the curriculum based learning.
3. Skills and financial literacy: the harvest is sold to the mid-day meal authority which further provides nutritious meals made of organic produce. In the colleges, these are sold to the professors and to the community nearby. For such sales, financial literacy and training in finance is required. As of 2015, 3500 young people started their bank accounts and began saving from these sales.

This project is helping to bring in local appropriate food back to the plate, combating malnutrition as well as engaging local established farmers with such children and the youth. The engaged children and youth are taken through a self-discovery journey to understand who they are, their strengths and capabilities. While a large number of them are exposed to farming and have an easy access to the livelihood, the entrepreneurial perspective is provided to them. Local strength is utilized, a co-creative space is generated, and government schemes are linked to young people.

The challenge remains that the discussions around young people begins and ends around conflicts and peace. A reflection needs to go beyond this. More young people should be brought together for decision making and deliberation.

High Level Panel on achieving the SDGs in the North East

Discussion moderated by: Mr. C K Das, Member, North East Council

Participants:

1. Mr. C K Das, Member, North East Council
2. Arunachal Pradesh: Omkar Singh, PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary, Environment and Forest
3. Assam: Dr. R.N Dubey, Head of SDG Centre, Assam Administrative Staff College
4. Manipur: Ms. Kulkarni Devi, Joint Director (Planning)
5. Meghalaya: Mr. R. N Mishra, Principal Secretary Planning
6. Mizoram: Mr. Lalchhuanawma Hrahsel, Advisor, State Planning Board
7. Nagaland: Mr. R. Binchilo Thong, Development Commissioner, Planning and Coordination Department
8. Sikkim: Ms. Devika Sharma Chhetri, Director (Planning), HRDD
9. Tripura: Mr. Anindya Kumar Bhattacharya, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Tripura

Lead question 1: What are the 3 key topmost and urgent priorities of your government in the context of SDGs?

Follow up question: SDGs requires simultaneous focus on economic, social and environmental issues and understanding the interconnectedness between the these three pillars – what steps can state governments can take to ensure that the departments are able to maximize the benefits from the synergies?

Lead question 2: What are the opportunities do you see within the Sustainable Development Goals framework to bring about institutional changes – for instance, we have seen in Assam that steps taken by the governments to use SDGs for budgeting and planning?

Lead question 3: Reflecting on last two days, what is one takeaway that you can start building on in your work?

North East Council:

North East Council is the reserve planning body of the region with a number of advisors, which with its funds and capabilities does whatever it can in developing an aiding the north east states.

Context of NER

1. The north east region has close to approximately 260,000 sq kilometres which less than the state of Rajasthan, however there are more than 200 ethnic groups. The problems are very different.
2. This region is surrounded by 5 foreign countries- China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan
3. 1901 to 2011 the population of NE increased about 10 times, without land mass increasing.
4. North East does not have copper ore, bauxite ore, iron etc. Cannot expect to have large scale engineering industry but depend on agriculture largely

Concentration needed on 5 basic human needs - food and nutrition, water and sanitation, housing, health and education- need to be included in planning process.

Arunachal Pradesh

Assam has been the first state to chalk out this programme and to implement it there. They have become a very good example and the state of AP would like to go over how they prepared their document.

Arunachal Pradesh Planning department has also prepared the document but it hasn't been finalized

International borders, communication and connectivity are problems. Infrastructure development is also required. There are still places in Arunachal Pradesh where internet connection, road connectivity are not available. It often takes 3-5 days to reach certain villages because of lack of roads – needs to be concentrated on by the state and state requires guidance from NITI Aayog.

Regarding SDGs- It is under preparation, it will take time. All the departments have circulated the indicators, all is prepared but not in the final stage.

NEC: out of all the 8 states, Arunachal Pradesh is the biggest in area; however there are hardly 135 bank branches. There are two districts where there is only 1 bank branch. (after demonetization, along with bad communication, imagine having one bank branch for two districts) These sort of things need to be highlighted.

Assam

Initiatives taken by the government of Assam and to take SDGs beyond what they are in the present. The present challenge is to finalize the strategy for the vision envisioned in the Assam Vision2030. In the process of preparing the development agenda for the coming 15 years

Development priority at present:

1. The very first priority for the government of Assam is doubling the farm income within 5 years (CMSGOY-Chief Minister's Samvadh Gram Yojana). If it happens, almost 50% of SDG goals will be met with regard to rural poor.
2. Concerned about the people who have been excluded in our development journey. Have identified pockets of backwardness because of whom our health indicators, our literacy indicators are poor- those areas are now our primary focus areas. If this happens. All our HDIs will shoot up.
3. Need to change our strategy of managing our natural resources-the strategy document states that Assam needs a paradigm shift.
 - Many people from North East projected that they need compensation for maintaining the natural resources. However, in Chandrapur (Maharashtra) income has been generated through sustainable natural resource management. Therefore considered that there must be a reason why Assam is not efficiently using and managing the natural resources. Therefore practices must be improved and revenues must harnessed and maximized to augment state's resources.
 - Degraded forest land: have to evolve a strategy for managing this- the reason why this is happening is because of lack of ownership.

4. Need to enhance a three pronged strategy towards SDG achievement- synergized approach towards SDG, secondly: innovation, use of technology and thirdly thinking of 7x17 mode of resource mobilization- 7 resources from 7 channels for 17 SDGs.

Taking from this workshop:

1. Social inclusion- Nagaland youth leader mentioned inclusion of youth, there is inclusion of children and youth in our planning process. This was in our thought process. But this is the first and foremost thing I take back from this workshop.

NEC: Doubling food production is applicable to the whole of NE region, the productivity is very low; production is hardly 1800 kg of rice or wheat per hectare where it is much more in other states (eg Punjab with 3000 kg).

Cropping intensity is very low in the whole of NE, it has hardly 1.5; while in Punjab it is 3 in some places Unless we increase our productivity per unit of land, increasing cropping intensity will be very hard for us.

There is also a lack of good quality seeds.

Low application of chemical fertilizers.

Lastly the credit deposit ratio is very low- it is less than 50. 60 per cent of land is hilly and mostly owned by community therefore no proper records of land. Patta/land rights are not available to many- land title can be deposited in the bank. Bank will not give any loan for the development of agriculture unless land title is available. Requested niti aayog to give a direction to states which have not surveyed their land- every owner of land should have a piece of paper stating ownership so that they can take loans from the bank.

Manipur

SDG targets and goals- constituted a committee chaired by the chief secy; another chaired by the commissioner planning, which involves the working group of finalization of targets and goals and consultation with all stakeholders. Held consultation at the commissioner planning level- about to finalize and bring it to the state level- still in the process. Prioritization of SDG has not yet been done- in the process.

Focus will be given on:

1. Quality education
2. Financial inclusion
3. Reaching out health services
4. Natural resource management through community partnership- this is our strength
5. Skill development and youth.
6. Service delivery improvement- feel the importance of it and know what's in store. Major bottleneck is on poor connectivity and infra of goals. 19 blocks are still untouched.
7. Gender Equality

Not all indicators are relevant. Priorities are different. Centre's priority if not synchronized with states- would lead to Manipur losing out.

NEC: Manipur has to develop. The number one goal of SDG is removal of poverty: for that I would just like to bring to notice to all the states that implementation of PDS must be taken very seriously by all states. Unless we provide highly subsidised food goods to all, poverty cannot be tackled.

The quality of manpower in Manipur must be improved; the opportunity should be given to them- banking facilities, other infrastructure as well as development of agriculture.

Meghalaya

Very strong focus on human capital development –

- From the time of schooling, education has to be meaningful, then vocational and entrepreneurial- integrated implementation in human capital development. Aspiring to further consolidate this. System of beneficiary culture- there is always “a belief that somebody will take us to paradise. This is not sustainable.”
- Shift from beneficitation to enterprise development. One of the ideas in SDGS is Inclusion. Inclusion can be put in two ways- benefit network or empowerment. Meghalaya has moved into the latter.
- Schemes often cover only a few and many get excluded that leads to grievance and frustration
- **Inspirational interventions**- mapping social entrepreneurship, guiding.
- Have been able to facilitate knowledge investment; several projects have come up- water bodies etc.

Second emphasis- integrated value development

- Meghalaya has a robust and vibrant natural ecosystem. The natural ecosystem is very enterprising- however, one has have the knowledge of doing the right thing at the right time in the right way in an integrated manner.
- Starts with inspiration then moves to knowledge, financial services
- What is told to the people- Either you consume it or you sell them- if you can't do either don't produce them

Third- re-engineering the government itself.

- The government put forth a mechanism, institutionally.
- There is much capacity that is not utilized but there is no platform- large number of extension people are able to chip in.
- 22% of the families that come to us have been able to do something
- This is how the democracy has to function- it has to be driven by the people.
- Reference to Mr. Cilliers and the 5Ps, already working with 1st and 5th.
- Development is both policy based as well as process based – with policy, development flows from policy and in the latter; if there are 5 things to be done, they do 5 not 4 otherwise they won't do it.

Been able to achieve many of the SDGs, not through documentation but through process based interventions which have led to these SDGs.

Rehash the institutional mechanism, rehash the policy mechanism, rehash the way of human capital is developed. Meghalaya's focus is more on creating an ecosystem for things to happen rather than do them directly. This is the paradigm shift. Also posed as a reason for why a document has not been created; added that they are doing so much more that cannot fit it into the definition of SDGs

Requested NEC to become more collaborative- to work on human capital. Asked for the personnel and expertise of members of NEC.

NEC: if we get sufficient number of good projects we can approach the govt for additional funds.

Some of the states in NER produce huge quantities of goods however do not have good marketing system- farmers growing and producing food stuffs etc require would get benefit from the sale of such harvests.

Mizoram

A little late in starting the implementation of SDG. Had been implementing the NLUP (new land use programme) for the last 5 years and now it's in the concluding stage. Hot to know of know of the SDGs right after the launch of a comprehensive growth strategy.

Had a number of meetings about the SDGs and identified the nodal depts.; in the process of working on the indicators- it is an important and complex job- have to determine which indicators are suitable for the goals.

Might conduct a base line study

Spoke about female empowerment. AMWF-had an agenda on uplifting the status of men.

Two requests for NITI Aayog:

1. Communication time factor- State govt hardly gets time to prepare proposals after it has been requested by NITI. Cannot prepare a project, a proposal in two or three days plus the capacity is low there too. (In Delhi 5-6 officers will be dealing with one subject. In Mizoram, one officer will deal with 6-7 subjects alone. Preparing projects, proposals in 3-4 days is impossible. Requested more time
2. Vision document can be prepared in a number of ways- it could be a small booklet, it could be 400 pages- could there be a common format or guideline or common template that can lead to a systematic preparation- it would be easier for those who consolidate it too

Nagaland

SDGs are universal set of targets and goals to fill most international and domestic policies over the next 15 years. Vision document released on December 10th

4 issues:

1. To identify pockets of poverty, Problems in education and healthcare.
2. NEC should continue to fill in the gaps with CSS and other state interventions.

3. A road map for vision- Nagaland plans to become self sufficient in rice- Vision 2025 from the agri dept. In terms of our vision document- anticipate the growth rate of 10 per cent of GSDP.
4. Additional finances from the centre- 1000 crore per annum is required to fulfil vision

Sikkim

There has been a shift in the planning methodology- Earlier there would be a central plan which would require state implementation- very little time was put into critical thinking and assessing whether those schemes were even needed in the state- busy in the paperwork.

This is a very good time to think about what is needed.

This approach appreciated with apprehension on the capabilities of the state to regain criticality. This is an opportunity but how well can Sikkim or the other States in North East go ahead with their own thinking process?

Reflecting on conference: Have not included the social aspect of things very seriously. The reason that Sikkim lags behind is that it has neglected the capacity of the youth to be a part of the development process. need to give them the opportunity and let them speak their heart out.

Sikkim has been a leader in various sectors, however there are many interventions that need to be looked at. One of them is to improve the accessibility and connectivity and that has been resounded by most states. Need to engage with institutions that have been researching in the NE states, the indigenous communities, the knowledge they have and harness their strengths. The swat analysis is very important – “analyse ourselves and collectively as a region” and assess the same.

1. Handholding with centre is necessary because of the need to develop planning process. The attention needed- providing confidence, funding etc
2. Engage with Youth
3. Thrust in organic agriculture
4. The North East has to be recognized more seriously

NEC:

1. at the time of partition, the per capita income in NER was much higher than the national average- after participation, there was a neglect of the NE, connectivity was lost. Initial planning was lost as well.
2. After 1962, there was hardly any pvt investment in NE
3. Migration from Bangladesh leading to demographic changes- from 1979- Violence started in Assam , Tripura, Meghalaya, some parts of Arunachal.

It is easy to say that NE is backward but why has it happened? It is time to bring NE as part of India, spend some more time to design a special kind of scheme for NE to compete with the rest of the country

Tripura

On 6th October, state government has issued a notification on the 17 goals with the assignment of roles and responsibilities with regard to the SDGs

Strong Autonomous district council.

Tripura human development report is about to be published- will give an added advantage to structure Vision.

Stated that Tripura's state plan, district plan , block plan, GP plan and village plan etc are all in synergy- they will be brought together.

The state government focus in on the poorest of the poor with special focus on education , health water, irrigation and so on Coming to the issue of jobs- 17 goals and 169 targets- the committee will meet each department for process and outcome to achieve them each and every quarter.

Resources- the partition has taken away freedom, virtually- connectivity

All the projects have to be completed but funding has to be assured. Said that NEC should assure this

Concluding remarks by Mr. Vikram Singh Gaur

Niti aayog is planning to come up with a scheme or rather a support to states for taking up the PPP projects in the infrastructure.

Whatever potential projects identified by the States that will be beyond 50 crore under PPP

Asked states to respond back to proposals so that Niti Aayog can examine, compile and take them up

To introduce this instrument within a month

Will support three states in the country for healthcare and educational transformation.

Can also attempt to bring in the technology so that the transformation can take place within a few years.

Noted down all the points and issues raised- the idea is to support the North east states.